



(Eighth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 25.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, August 07, 2018 at 1.00 p.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana, Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Science, Technology, Research, Skills Development & Vocational Training and Kandyan Heritage

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka, Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Integration, Reconciliation and Official Languages

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation

Hon. S. B. Nawinne, Minister of Internal Affairs & Wayamba Development

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Buddhasasana

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication, Digital Infrastructure and Foreign Employment

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Minister of Public Administration & Management and Law & Order

Hon. (Mrs.) Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Youth Affairs, Project Management and Southern Development

Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade

Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance and Mass Media

Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera, Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Ports and Shipping

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine

Hon. D. M. Swaminathan, Minister of Resettlement, Rehabilitation, Northern Development & Hindu Religious Affairs

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply

Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Highways & Road Development

Hon. P. Harrison, Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala, State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare, State Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Piyasena Gamage, State Minister of Youth Affairs, Project Management and Southern Development

Hon. Mohan Lal Grero, State Minister of Higher Education & Cultural Affairs

Hon. Lucky Jayawardana, State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake, State Minister of Mahaweli Development

Hon. Ajith P. Perera, State Minister of Power and Renewable Energy

Hon. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. A. D. Premadasa, State Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. Palitha Range Bandara, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources & Disaster Management

Hon. V. S. Radhakrishnan, State Minister of Education

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance

Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama, State Minister of Provincial Councils, Local Government and Sports

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, State Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development and Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade

Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. M. L. A. M. Hizbullah, State Minister of Highways & Road Development

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie, State Minister of National Unity and Co-existence

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Finance and Mass Media

Hon. Faizal Cassim, Deputy Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Dunesb Gankanda, Deputy Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms

Hon. Edward Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs & Wayamba
Development

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha, Deputy Minister of Public Administration &
Management and Law & Order

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Deputy Minister of Telecommunication, Digital
Infrastructure and Foreign Employment

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce

Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology,
Research, Skills Development & Vocational Training and Kandyan Heritage

Hon. Indika Bandaranayake, Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, Deputy Minister of National Integration,
Reconciliation and Official Languages

Hon. K. Kader Masthan, Deputy Minister of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and
Northern Development

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, Deputy Minister of Environment

Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage, Deputy Minister of Ports and Shipping Affairs

Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. Muthu Sivalingam, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare & Primary Industries

Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen, Deputy Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
Development and Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. H. M. M. Harees, Deputy Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City
Development

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardana

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Dilum Amunugama

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail
Hon. T. B. Ekanayake
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Siripala Gamalath
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thuraiyethnasingam
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa

Hon. Susantha Punchinilame
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Arundika Fernando
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Duleep Wijesekera
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Acting Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:-

I

“ I wish to inform the Parliament that I have received copies of two petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled “Office for Reparations”.

II

“I wish to inform the Parliament that I have received copies of seven petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled “Medical (Amendment) .”

III

“ I wish to announce the determination of the Supreme Court on the Bill titled ‘Office for Reparations’ in respect of which petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that in terms of Article 123 (1) of the Constitution that Clauses 27 (a) and 27 (a) (iii) of the Bill are inconsistent with Article 4 (c) and Article 3 of the Constitution and could only become law if the number of votes cast in favour thereof amounts to not less than two-thirds of the whole number of Members (including those not present), and approved by the People at a referendum. However, the Supreme Court has stated that the inconsistency would cease and may be passed with a simple majority if the Clauses are amended as opined by this Court.

The Supreme Court has further determined that other provisions of the Bill are not in conflict with the Constitution.

I order that the determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings.”

IV

“ I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bills entitled ‘Nation Building Tax (Amendment)’, ‘Land (Restrictions on Alienation) (Amendment)’ and ‘Bribery (Amendment)’ on the 30th of July 2018 in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented — The Second Instalment — Part XX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table and to be printed.

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Annual Reports of the Selacine Television Institute for the years 2014 and 2015; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for the year 2014

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.06.2018 to 30.06.2018 under Section 6 (1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2017;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance and Mass Media under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2066/40 of 12th April 2018;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance and Mass Media under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2068/9 of 24th April 2018; and
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance and Mass Media under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2071/16 of 15th May 2018.

and moved that this Note on Supplementary Allocations and Orders be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City Development presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order No. 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the Report presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Office of the Leader of the House of Parliament in the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat—Puttalam for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat—Kandy for the year 2017; and

- (iii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat—
Hambantota for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (6) The Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine presented the Annual Report of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (7) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Coconut Research Board for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (8) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Animal Production and Health for the year 2017; and
(ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Rural Economy for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (9) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order No. 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the Report presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Office of the Chief Government Whip of Parliament in the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (10) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the year 2017; and
(ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Botanic Gardens for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Vijitha Hearth, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands presented the Report of the said Committee on,

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 2016;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Agrarian Development for the year 2015;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy for the year 2015;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board for the year 2015; and
- (v) Annual Reports of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka for the years 2014 and 2015

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

(2) Hon. Ajith P. Perera, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media presented the Report of the said Committee on, —

- (i) Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill; and
- (ii) Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Lucky Jayawardana presented a petition dated 04.06.2018 from Mr. B. G. Laksiri of No. 356/3/C, Weththewa Watta, Gelioya.
- (2) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 22.05.2018 from Mr. J. A. P. Udaya Kumar of No. 222/62, 4th Lane, Nagoda, Kalutara; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 17.05.2018 from Mrs. Liliyan Sumanawathie of No. 209 A, Pansala Road, Madupitiya, Panadura.
- (3) Hon. C. B. Rathnayake presented a petition dated 22.08.2017 from Mr. W.P. Sarath of No. 487 A, Susilarama Road, Malabe.
- (4) Hon. Susantha Punchinilame presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 11.06.2018 from Mrs. N.M.R.T. Shyamali of No. 132, Unit 22, Agbopura, Kanthale;
 - (ii) a petition dated 02.07.2018 from Mr. Paramasivam Sasikumar of No. 350, Solayadi, Uppuweli, Trincomalee; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 13.06.2018 from Mr. R. Rajeshwaran of Young Educated Farmers Association, Weppankulam, Kithul Uthuwa, Pankulama.
- (5) Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne presented a petition dated 03.05.2018 from Mr. W. M. Jayawickrama of No. 05, Medical Centre, Siripura.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order No. 30(10) of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Motions for leave of Absence : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That the Hon. Sirinal de Mel, National List Member of Parliament be granted leave in terms of the Article 66(f) of the Constitution to be absent from the sittings of Parliament for a period of three months from July 19th, 2018 to October 18th 2018.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Economic Service Charge (Amendment) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media presented the Bill to amend the Economic Service Charge Act, No. 13 of 2006.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

7. Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Public Enterprise and Kandy City Development on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question Proposed and debated.

(At 4.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of City Planning and Water Supply moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.00 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

(At 6.18 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

And it being 6.30 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be continued on a future date.

8. Adjournment (Banning Illegal Fishing in Mullaitivu District) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 6.30 p.m. the Parliament was at 6.35 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without question put.

Accordingly, the Parliament adjourned until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 08, 2018.