



(Eighth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 31.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, September 04, 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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture

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. Daya Gamage, Minister of Social Welfare and Primary Industries

Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and
Community Development

Hon. Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources & Disaster
Management

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

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. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Minister of Power and Renewable Energy

Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa, Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
Development and Rural Economic Affairs

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. 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. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence

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. (Dr.) 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. Ashok Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation

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

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

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources
Development

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

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

Hon. H. R. Sarathie Dushmantha, Deputy Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms

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. Ajith Mannapperuma, Deputy Minister of Environment

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Minister of Agriculture

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. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Dilum Amunugama

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne

Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera

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. Malith Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Susantha Punchinilame
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
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. (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. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Chief of Staff and Deputy 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 : Speaker made the following announcements:-

I

“ I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bills entitled ‘Excise (Amendment)’ and ‘Amaradeva Aesthetic and Research Centre’ on 03rd September 2018 under the Provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

II

“I wish to inform the Parliament that Mr. Narendra Fernando, Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms, has been appointed to the post of Serjeant-at-Arms of the Parliament of Sri Lanka with effect from the 30th of August 2018.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment for the year 2017 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Order made by the President under Section 3 of the Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977 relating to Extradition Treaty between Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Republic of Turkey and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2079/77 of 13th July 2018; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Defence under Section 18 of the Private Security Agencies Act, No. 45 of 1998 with regard to amendment of charging of fees and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2074/34 of 07th June 2018.

and moved that this Order and Regulations be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Reports on the Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the Reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No. 119(4) of the Parliament regarding the performance of the Presidential Secretariat, Department of Forest and Department of Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management in the year 2016 and moved that these Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No. 119(4) of the Parliament regarding the performance of the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs 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 Performance Report of the Department of Sri Lanka Railway for the year 2017 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Report on the Financial Performance of the First Quarter of 2018;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Insurance Board of Sri Lanka for the year 2016;
- (iii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance and Mass Media, under Sections 2, 12, 22 and 25 read with Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance

(Chapter 52) regarding Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2075/23 of 13th June 2018.

(Excise Notification No. 10/2018) ; and

- (iv) Notification made by the Minister of Finance and Mass Media, under Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) regarding Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2075/24 of 13th June 2018.

(Excise Notification No. 11/2018)

and moved that these Reports and Notifications be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) 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 Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Ministry of Skills Development & Vocational Training and Department of Technical Education & Training in the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in terms of under Section 2 of the United Nations Act, No. 45 of 1968, with regard to the United Nations (Sanctions in relation to Iran) Regulations No. 1 of 2018 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2080/34 of 17th July 2018 amended by the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2085/11 of 21st August 2018 and moved that these Regulations be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Reports on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order No. 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Department of Registrar General and District Secretariat, Colombo in the year 2016 and moved that these Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) 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 Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine in the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the National Crafts Council for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(13) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Reports on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order No. 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development and Department of National Physical Planning in the year 2016 and moved that these Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(14) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

(15) 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 Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Ministry of Disaster Management in the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(16) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Reports on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order No. 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Ministry of Public Administration & Management, Ministry of Law & Order and Southern Development, Sri Lanka Police

and Department of Pensions in the year 2016 and moved that these Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(17) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Order made by the Minister of Higher Education & Cultural Affairs under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 recognizing the SLT Campus (Pvt) Ltd as a Bachelor of Technology Honours in Electronics Degree Awarding Institute and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2083/35 of 10th August 2018 and moved that this Order be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(18) 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 Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development in the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(19) 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 Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts regarding the performance of the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development in the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(20) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the Reports presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No. 119(4) of the Parliament regarding the performance of the Ministry of Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs, Department of Muslim Religious Affairs and Cultural Affairs and Department of Posts in the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Lucky Jayawardana, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment presented the Report of the said Committee on,

- (i) Medical (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Ayurveda Medical Council for the years of 2013 and 2014;
- (iii) Performance Reports of the Department of Ayurveda for the years of 2014, 2015 and 2016;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Homoeopathic Medical Council for the year 2013;
- (v) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation for the year 2014;
- (vi) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Thripasha Ltd for the years of 2011, 2012 and 2013;
- (vii) Annual Reports of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka for the years of 2014 and 2015;
- (viii) Annual Reports of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka for the years of 2014 and 2015;
- (ix) Annual Reports of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital for the years of 2014 and 2015; and
- (x) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine for the year 2017

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

(2) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Vadivel Suresh, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development presented the Report of the said Committee on,

- (i) Orders under Sections 25 A and 20 (4) (b) of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978;
- (ii) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka for the years 2014 and 2015;
- (iii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for the year 2015;
- (iv) Thirty Seventh Annual Report of the University Grants Commission for the year 2015;
- (v) Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the University of Moratuwa Institute of Technology for the year 2015;
- (vi) Annual Report of the University of Colombo Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences for the year 2015;
- (vii) Annual Reports of the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka for the years 2014 and 2015;
- (viii) Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka for the year 2015;

- (ix) Annual Report of the University of Colombo Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology for the year 2015;
- (x) Annual Report of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies for the year 2015;
- (xi) Annual Report of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2015;
- (xii) Annual Report of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts for the year 2015;
- (xiii) Annual Report of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2015;
- (xiv) Annual Report of the Uva Wellassa University for the year 2015;
- (xv) Annual Report of the University of Colombo School of Computing for the year 2015;
- (xvi) Annual Report & Accounts of the Sabaragamuwa University for the year 2015;
- (xvii) Annual Report of the University of Jaffna for the year 2015;
- (xviii) Annual Report of the Eastern University for the year 2015;
- (xix) Annual Report of the South Eastern University for the year 2015;
- (xx) Annual Report of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences -University of Colombo for the year 2015;
- (xxi) Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Institute of Human Resource Advancement - University of Colombo for the year 2015;
- (xxii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology - University of Kelaniya for the year 2015;
- (xxiii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine for the year 2015;
- (xxiv) Annual Report of the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences for the year 2015;
- (xxv) Annual Report of the Institute of Indigenous Medicine - University of Colombo for the year 2015;
- (xxvi) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Management - University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2015;
- (xxvii) Thirty Eighth Annual Report of the University Grants Commission for the year 2016;
- (xxviii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka for the year 2016;
- (xxix) Annual Report of the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka for the year 2016;
- (xxx) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for the year 2016;

- (xxxi) Annual Report of the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology - University of Colombo for the year 2016;
- (xxxii) Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Institute of Technology - University of Moratuwa for the year 2016;
- (xxxiii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education for the year 2016;
- (xxxiv) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of Science - University of Peradeniya for the years 2015 and 2016 ; and
- (xxxv) Annual Reports of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture - University of Peradeniya for the years 2015 and 2016

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

(3) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development presented the Report of the said Committee on,

- (i) Office for Reparations Bill;
- (ii) Order under Section 14 of Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No.40 of 1979;
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2016;
- (iv) Annual Reports of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka for the years 2015 and 2016;
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of External Resources for the year 2017;
- (vi) Performance Report of the Department of National Planning for the year 2017;
- (vii) Performance Report of the Department of Census and Statistics for the year 2017;
- (viii) Performance Report of the Food Commissioner's Department for the year 2017; and
- (ix) Performance Report of the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs for the year 2017

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

(4) Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, the Chairman of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on, "Resolution for Paying Emoluments for the Members of the Office on Missing Persons" which was 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 05.07.2018 from Mr. Nimal Samarasundara of No. 126, Kekulandala, Agalawatta.
- (2) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 29.06.2018 from Mr. Chaminda Priyashantha Suriya bandara of Palewila, Sulthanagoda, Matara;
 - (ii) A petition dated 14.06.2018 from Mr. H.G.Sirisena of “Pradeep”, Warakapitiya, Sulthanagoda;
 - (iii) A petition dated 23.07.2018 from Mrs. Rupalatha Wellahewa of No. 54, Kumaradasa Mawatha, Matara; and
 - (iv) A petition dated 24.07.2018 from Mr. W.A. Sunil Jayasinghe of Nithulpitiya, Maduragoda.
- (3) Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardane presented a petition dated 20.07.2018 from Mrs. Vihangi Mandira Patabendige of No. 21/19/2/1, 8th Lane, Colombo 3.
- (4) Hon. Susantha Punchinilame presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 08.08.2018 from Mrs. A.P. Kusumawathie de Silva of No. 17, Dock Yard Road, Trincomalee;
 - (ii) A petition dated 20.07.2018 from Mr. Chamal Sudusinghe Piya sundara of No. 19 A, Summit Flats, Kappettipola Mawatha, Colombo 05;
 - (iii) A petition dated 08.07.2018 from Mr. D. R. M. C. Henegama of Elwatta 1st Lane, Waduragala, Kurunegala; and
 - (iv) A petition dated 20.07.2018 from Mrs. Punidakumar Chandrawathi of No. 21, Central Road, Orr's Hill, Trincomalee.
- (5) Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne presented a petition dated 20.06.2018 from Mr. N.W.G.S.R.Nanayakkara of No. 824, Track 9, Diwulankadawala, Medirigiriya.
- (6) Hon. Dilum Amunugama presented a petition dated 16.10.2017 from Mr. D. M. Ashoka Dissanayake of No. 109/1 A, Lewella Road, Kandy.
- (7) Hon. Mujibur Rahuman presented a petition dated 27.03.2018 from Mrs. N.M. U. Suheiba of 256/2, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

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

5. Finance: The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media presented the Bill to amend the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003, the Finance Act, No.5 of 2005, the Finance Act, No.12 of 2012, the Finance Act, No. 16 of 1995, and the Finance Act, No.10 of 2015; and to provide for the

imposition of Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles, Vehicle Entitlement Levy, Annual Company Registration Levy, Debt Repayment Levy, Carbon Tax, Cellular Tower Levy and Mobile Short Message Service Levy; and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday September 18, 2018 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

6. Paying Emoluments for the Members of the Office on Missing Persons: The Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City Development on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs moved,— Whereas seven members including a Chairman have been appointed on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council for the Office on Missing Persons in terms of the provisions of the Act No. 14 of 2016 of the Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) and as per section 20 of the said Act, the salaries of the members of that office shall be determined by Parliament, shall be charged to the Consolidated Fund;

Whereas the recent unfortunate incidents reported in various parts of Kandy District early March of this year;

And whereas, the unfortunate incidents reported in the Beruwela Electorate in June, 2014, Ampara District in February 2018;

And whereas, it observes the escalation of communal hatred among the different ethnic communities in the recent past;

And whereas, the necessity to establish a proper mechanism to address such situations and to prevent repetition of such misunderstanding among communities in the future;

And whereas, the initiative taken by the Honorable Speaker of Parliament with the fullest support and co-operation of both the Members of Parliament in the Government and Opposition to visit the places, where the incidents took place in the Kandy District, on a fact finding mission on 10th March, 2018;

And whereas, consequent to the said visit, the steps taken by the Honorable Speaker of Parliament to convene a Summit represented by all venerable Nayaka Theros and other Reverend Religious Leaders including Leaders/ Representatives of Political Parties in Parliament; Heads of relevant Government Institutions, Representatives of Civil Society Organizations, State and Private Media Institutions and Heads of Security Forces on the 19th April, 2018 and subsequently on 29th June, 2018;

And whereas, it was unanimously decided at the Summit held on 29th June, 2018 to explore the possibility to establish a “Select Committee of Parliament” under the Chairmanship of the Honorable Speaker of Parliament consisting both Government/ Opposition Members representing all ethnic communities;

And whereas, the Committee on Parliamentary Business had also endorsed the appointment of the Select Committee of Parliament under reference at its meeting held on 05th July, 2018;

And whereas this office is mandated to search, trace and clarify the circumstances of missing persons and provide reparation psychosocial support and other assistance to the family members of the missing persons and to make recommendations to the relevant authorities towards minimizing the number of incidents of the missing persons;

And whereas accordingly, Cabinet Memorandum submitted by the President on 22nd March 2018 in respect of this office, as decided at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 05 June 2018, has granted approval to pay the emoluments of members as follows:-

- (i) Pay a monthly allowance of Rs.100,000/-, a monthly telephone allowance of Rs.10,000/- and an official vehicle with a quota of 225 liters of fuel per month to the Chairman of this office ; and
- (ii) Pay a monthly allowance of Rs. 75,000/-, a monthly telephone allowance of Rs. 8,000/- and a transport allowance of Rs. 25,000/- to the members up to a limit of 350 km or a transport allowance of Rs. 50,000/- for a distance over and above 350 km depending on the distance from the residence to the office,

Accordingly, that this Parliament determines to pay emoluments and other allowances of members of the said office to be charged to the consolidated Fund as above as per Section 20 of the Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration and Discharge of Functions) Act, No.14 of 2016.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Select Committee to study and report to Parliament its recommendations to ensure Communal and Religious Harmony in Sri Lanka: The Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City Development moved,—

Select Committee of Parliament to study and report to Parliament its recommendations to ensure Communal and Religious Harmony in Sri Lanka,—

Whereas the recent unfortunate incidents reported in various parts of Kandy District early March of this year;

And whereas, the unfortunate incidents reported in the Beruwela Electorate in June, 2014, Ampara District in February 2018;

And whereas, it observes the escalation of communal hatred among the different ethnic communities in the recent past;

And whereas, the necessity to establish a proper mechanism to address such situations and to prevent repetition of such misunderstanding among communities in the future;

And whereas, the initiative taken by the Honorable Speaker of Parliament with the fullest support and co-operation of both the Members of Parliament in the Government and Opposition to visit the places, where the incidents took place in the Kandy District, on a fact finding mission on 10th March, 2018;

And whereas, consequent to the said visit, the steps taken by the Honorable Speaker of Parliament to convene a Summit represented by all venerable Nayaka Theros and other Reverend Religious Leaders including Leaders/ Representatives of Political Parties in Parliament; Heads of relevant Government Institutions, Representatives of Civil Society Organizations, State and Private Media Institutions and Heads of Security Forces on the 19th April, 2018 and subsequently on 29th June, 2018;

And whereas, it was unanimously decided at the Summit held on 29th June, 2018 to explore the possibility to establish a “Select Committee of Parliament” under the Chairmanship of the Honorable Speaker of Parliament consisting both Government/ Opposition Members representing all ethnic communities;

And whereas, the Committee on Parliamentary Business had also endorsed the appointment of the Select Committee of Parliament under reference at its meeting held on 05th July, 2018;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to study and report to Parliament, its recommendations to ensure Communal and Religious Harmony in Sri Lanka on the following areas:—

- (a) to prevent the propagation of defamatory opinions/ opinions that undermine national harmony or engagement in such activities and the necessity of taking firm legal action against individuals who engage in such activities;
i.e. to discuss and decide on the suitability of including hate speech as a crime in the Penal Code.
- (b) to promote the future generation from inheriting the differences that prevailed in the past along with the undue consequences created;
- (c) to value the direct and frank intervention and contribution of all parties concerned to ensure the religious and national reconciliation.
- (d) to categorize the school system on a non-racial or non-religious basis;
- (e) to establish a Parliamentary Committee, empowered to entertain complaints about the issues and problems encountered by the minority ethnic groups living in the Northern and Eastern areas and in the other areas and solve those problems and issues through discussion;
- (f) to ban conducting of private tuition classes on Sunday mornings, which is an obstacle in conducting Dhamma Schools;
- (g) to formulate the relevant legal provisions required for the general implementation of the law when establishing places of religious worship and installing images, statues and the necessity of a common code of law for same;
- (h) to introduce a special subject into the school curriculum in order to create national reconciliation and to build up co-operation among races having made children aware of the fact that their minds have been spoiled on the racial amity;

- (i) to avail the contributions of the academics, intellectuals and the persons, who have won the recognition and respect of the public, to this national and religious reconciliation programme;
- (j) to establish a panel of experts, which is represented by all religions at national level and the importance of accumulating academics, intellectuals and eminent persons, who have won the recognition and the respect of the public;
- (k) to establish a mechanism to avail the contribution of the security forces, the Police and the places of religious worship under the patronage of the Divisional Secretary or the District Secretary with the coordination of the Hon. Ministers and Members of Parliament in order to solve the problems prevalent at local level and to convene discussions by the aforesaid groups at district level at least once in every three months;
- (l) to formulate norms that should be followed when expressing views via social websites, various media networks, print/ electronic media;
- (m) to ban publishing of the news, which disturbs national amity and how to formulate laws in that regard;
- (n) to ensure that every religion and every race enjoy equal rights in presenting their views through both print and electronic media;
- (o) to prevent disruption of national harmony through false and hateful statements, and to formulate guidelines for the media institutions to prevent the occurrence of such situations through media programmes that are held with the participation of highly recognized persons such as religious leaders, scholars and other elites;
- (p) to resolve issues related to the national language policy;
- (q) to make arrangements to change the mindset of the public effectively on establishing national harmony and emphasizing its importance through the relevant Ministries and established institutions within the relevant mechanisms administered by the government, particularly institutes such as the National Youth Services Council.
- (r) to enact Legislation to establish a "Race Relations Board" with necessary powers, funding and decision making authority to entertain complaints by any member of the public to seek relief when affected by incidents of racial hatred; and
- (s) to examine and recommend changes to the Police Ordinance and policing in general to ensure better public confidence in the Sri Lanka Police Department.

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed, to look into and report on the above matters.

2. (a) That the Committee and its Chairman shall be nominated by Mr. Speaker;
- (b) That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 101, of the Parliament the Committee shall consist of not more than twenty five (25) Members.

3. That the Committee shall have the power to:

- (a) fix its quorum;
- (b) send for persons, papers and records, may order any person to attend before Parliament or before such Committee, and to produce any paper, book, record or document in the possession or under the control of such person;
- (c) verify or otherwise ascertain by oral examination of witnesses and examine witnesses upon oath or affirmation which the Chairman of the Committee or a person specially authorized for that purpose may administer;
- (d) obtain the services of Specialists and Experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
- (e) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.

4. The Committee shall make its Report within Six Months (06) of the date of its first sitting or such other or further time period as Parliament may grant.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill : Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City Development moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and allocated by the Speaker to Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order No. 53(3) of the Parliament.

9. Adjournment: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 3.25 p.m. adjourned until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 05, 2018.