



(Eighth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 42.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 9.30 a. 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,
Economic Affairs, Resettlement & Rehabilitation, Northern Province
Development and Youth Affairs

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

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana, Minister of Internal & Home Affairs and Provincial
Councils & Local Government

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

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

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Power, Energy and Business Development

Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education

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

Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication, Foreign Employment and
Sports

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Minister of Housing, Construction and Cultural Affairs

Hon. (Mrs.) Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women & Child Affairs and Dry Zone
Development

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Minister of Public Administration &
Disaster Management

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry & Commerce, Resettlement of
Protracted Displaced Persons, Co-operative Development and Vocational
Training & Skills Development

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

Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance

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

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

Hon. Abdul Haleem, Minister of Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs

Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Highways & Road Development and Petroleum Resources Development

Hon. P. Harrison, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva, Non Cabinet Minister of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution

Hon. Ajith P. Perera, Non Cabinet Minister of Digital Infrastructure and Information Technology

Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan, Non Cabinet Minister of Special Area Development

Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene, Non Cabinet Minister of Mass Media and State Minister of Defence

Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, Non Cabinet Minister of Science, Technology & Research

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala, State Minister of Internal & Home Affairs and Provincial Councils and Local Government

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

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. Faizal Cassim, State Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

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

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

Hon. A. D. Premadasa, State Minister of Power & Renewable Energy

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, State Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran, State Minister of Education

Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, State Minister of Highways & Road Development

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, State Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development

Hon. Vadivel Suresh, State Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen, State Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. H. M. M. Harees, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development
Hon. Edward Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha, Deputy Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade
Hon. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment
Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Training

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Piyasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Mohan Lal Grero
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Arundika Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Palitha Range Bandara
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne

Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
Hon. Duleep Wijesekera
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Vasantha Senanayake
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

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. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mohan Lal Grero presented a petition dated 15.01.2019 from Mr. E. V. G. Suranga Lakmal of No. 21/2, Raja Mawatha, Ratmalana.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa presented a petition dated 14.02.2019 from Mr. K. G. A. K. Karunasekara of No. J 15, Kalapitiya, Hadunuwewa.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order 30(10) of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

2. Appropriation Bill — (Thirteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 124

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.30 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 11.31 a.m. Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 2.20 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

(At 3.06 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama took the Chair.)

(At 5.23 p.m. Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi took the Chair.)

(At 6.20 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 2 in page 24,—

“ Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment

Recurrent	82,357,660,000
Capital	3,887,300,000

(The effect of this amendment is to create a new Expenditure Head for the Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment as Head 124 and to provide provisions for the same Ministry; transfer the provisions pertaining to the Head 216– Department of Social Services and Head 331 Department of Samurdhi Development from the Ministry of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Social Empowerment and to transfer Head 289– Department of Export Agriculture from the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development to this Ministry)

Head 124– Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment

Programme 01	Operational Activities	688,480,000	93,700,000
Programme 02	Development Activities	16,250,180,000	2,169,600,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 216

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out lines 17 to 19 in page 35 and transfer and insert the following under the new Head 124 in page 24,—

“Programme 01 Operational Activities	42,270,000	3,700,000
Programme 02 Development Activities	539,730,000	167,300,000

(The effect of this amendment is to transfer the provisions pertaining to the Head 216 - Department of Social Services from the Ministry of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Social Empowerment to the Newly created Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment mentioned in Page 24)”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 289

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out lines 4 and 5 in page 21 and transfer and insert the following under the new Head 124 in page 24,—

“ Head 289 - Department of Export Agriculture

Programme 02 Development Activities	677,000,000	666,000,000
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(The effect of this amendment is to transfer the provisions of Head 289 - Department of Export Agriculture from the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development to the Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment) ”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 331

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 to 8 in page 36 and transfer and insert the following under the new Head 124 in page 24,—

“ Head 331- Department of Samurdhi Development

Programme 01 Operational Activities	354,300,000	10,200,000
Programme 02 Development Activities	63,805,700,000	776,800,000

(The effect of the amendment is to transfer the provisions of the Head 331 - Department of Samurdhi Development from the Ministry of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Social Empowerment to the Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment)”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 53

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out lines 3 to 5 in page 12 and substitute the following,—

“ Non Cabinet Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution

Operational Activities 1,314,100,000

Development Activities 2,477,962,000

Head 53 - Non Cabinet Minister of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution

Programme 01 Operational Activities 116,100,000 2,069,000,000

(The effect of the amendment is to change the name of the Ministry, and for the transfer of Head 252 - Department of Census and Statistics from the Ministry of National Policies, Economic Affairs, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, Northern Province Development, Vocational Training and Skills Development and Youth Affairs; Head 300 - Department of Food Commissioner from Minister of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development to this Ministry and for the transfer of the sub project “Emergency Pre-Hospital Care Ambulance Service in Sri Lanka” from the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine to this Ministry and to transfer the provisions of Rs. 2,000,000,000 [Two Billion] Capital expenditure allocated for the sub project “Emergency Pre-Hospital Care Ambulance Service in Sri Lanka” from the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine to this Ministry.)”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 252

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out lines 1 and 2 in page 17 and transfer and insert the following under the Head 53 in page 12,—

“ Head 252 - Department of Census and Statistics

Programme 01 Operational Activities 900,000,000 107,000,000

(The effect of this amendment is to transfer the provisions of Head 252 - Department of Census and Statistics from the Ministry of National Policies, Economic Affairs, Resettlement & Rehabilitation, Northern Province Development, Vocational Training & Skills Development and Youth Affairs to Non Cabinet Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution)”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 300

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out lines 11 and 12 in page 21 and transfer and insert the following under the Head 53 in page 12,—

“ Head 300 - Department of Food Commissioner

Programme 01	Operational Activities	298,000,000	301,962,000
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(The effect of this amendment is to transfer the provisions of Head 300 - the Department of Food Commissioner from the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development to Non Cabinet Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution)”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 56

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to insert the following in page 12 and made up as follows,—

“ Non Cabinet Ministry of Special Areas Development

Recurrent	72,100,000
Capital	18,900,000

Head 56 -Non Cabinet Ministry of Special Areas Development

Programme 01	Operational Activities	72,100,000	18,900,000
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(The effect of this amendment is to include in the Appropriation Bill for the year 2019 and to provide provisions for the newly created Non Cabinet Ministry of Special Areas Development, under Head 56 in line with the Extraordinary Gazettes No. 2106/10 of 16.01.2019)”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Whereupon the Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms proposed that the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Friday, March 22, 2019.

3. Annual Report of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (2013) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Non Cabinet Minister of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution moved,— That the Annual Report of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2013 and presented on 11.11.2017 under Section 18 of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka Act, No. 53 of 1988, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Annual Report of the Institute of Policy Studies (2015) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Non Cabinet Minister of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution moved,— That the Annual Report of the Institute of Policy Studies together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2015 and presented on 25.05.2018 under Section 18 of the Institute of Policy Studies Act, No. 53 of 1988, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Adjournment (Dearth of Essential Drugs) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

(At 6.55 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 7.25 p.m. adjourned until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, March 22, 2019 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 09th March, 2019.