



(Eighth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 74.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, July 09, 2019 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, 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. Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs

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

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

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Buddhasasana & Wayamba Development

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

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 and Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development

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

Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance

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, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, State Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation

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

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

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

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, State Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment

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. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Hon. Edward Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms

Hon. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, Deputy Minister of Industry & Commerce

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardana

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

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

Hon. T. B. Ekanayake

Hon. Faizal Cassim

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne

Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. Piyasena Gamage

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana

Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera

Hon. D. V. Chanaka

Hon. Sisira Jayakody

Hon. Malith Jayathilake

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. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. H. R. Sarathie Dushmantha
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. S. B. Nawinne
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Susantha Punchinilame
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Palitha Range Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Indika Bandaranayake
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharooof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
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. S. Shritharan

Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. E. Saravanapavan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Vijitha 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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform the Parliament that I have received copies of four petitions filed at the Supreme Court in terms of the Provisions of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in respect of the Bill entitled ‘State Land (Special Provisions)’.”

II

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bills entitled ‘Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation (Amendment)’ and ‘Revival of Underperforming Enterprises or Underutilized Assets (Repeal)’ on the 28th of June 2019 in terms of the Provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

III

“I wish to inform that, I have nominated the following co-opted Members to serve on the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Draft Statute of Tourism Development Bureau of Uva Provincial Council’ in terms of the Standing Order 113(2) of the Parliament:—

Hon. Harin Fernando

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva

Hon. Dilan Perera

Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Excise Department of Sri Lanka for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine under Section 142 read with the Section 118 of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act, No. 5 of 2015 relating to Medical Devices (Pricing) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2114/54 of 15th March 2019; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine under Section 142 read with the Section 118 of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act, No. 5 of 2015 relating to Medicines (Ceiling on Prices) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2123/35 of 15th May 2019

and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Chilaw Plantations Ltd. for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development presented the Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2015 and moved that the 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 Department of Debt Conciliation Board for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti - corruption) and Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the University of Colombo for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Uva Wellassa University for the year 2017;

- (iii) Annual Report & Accounts of the University of Kelaniya for the year 2017;
- (iv) Annual Report & Accounts of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for the year 2017;
- (v) Annual Report of the Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University for the year 2017; and
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education under Section 27(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Faculty of Allied Health Sciences of University of Sri Jayawardenepura and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2121/21 of 30th April 2019

and moved that those Reports and the Order be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Industrial Development Board for the year 2014 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Regulation made by the Minister of Industry and Commerce with the concurrence of the President under Section 36 of the Public Contracts Act, No. 3 of 1987 and the regulations published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 508/7 of 02nd June 1988 last amended by the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1773/36 of 30th August 2012 further amending and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2055/18 of 24th January 2018 and moved that the Regulation be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Labour Studies for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(13) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Digital Infrastructure and Information Technology for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication presented the Consolidated Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication and the Committee on Public Finance on, “Supplementary Estimate No. 32 of 2019” which was referred to the said Committees.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

(2) Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Note on the Supplementary Allocations given from the Budgetary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities provision made under the Department of National Budget as per the Introduction Note of the Annual Estimates;
 - (ii) Orders under the Excise (Special Provision) Act, No. 13 of 1989; and
 - (iii) Resolution under the Active Liability Management Act, No. 8 of 2018
- which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

4. Shrama Vasana Fund (Amendment) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations presented,— “Bill to amend the Shrama Vasana Fund Act, No. 12 of 1998.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday July 23, 2019 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

5. Wages Boards (Amendment) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations presented,— “Bill to amend the Wages Boards Ordinance.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday July 23, 2019 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

6. Sitzings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sittings of Parliament on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th July, 2019 shall be 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Ministerial Consultative Committees : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the resolution adopted by Parliament on 24th January 2019, the designations of the following Ministerial Consultative Committees shall be re-designated as follows as per the decision taken by the Committee of Selection on 08th July 2019:—

- The Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development as “Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development”; and

- The Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration & Disaster Management as “Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Disaster Management and Rural Economic Affairs.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.52 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

8. Supplementary Sum— Head 117— Programme 02 : The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development on behalf of the Minister of Highways & Road Development and Petroleum Resources Development moved,— † That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Sixty Five Thousand Million (Rupees 65,000 Million) be payable out of the consolidated fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or any other fund or monies of or at the disposal of the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or from the proceed of any loans obtained by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for service of the Financial Year beginning of the 01st of January 2019 and ending on 31st December 2019 and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the schedule hereto:—

SCHEDULE

Head - 117		Ministry of Highways & Road Development and Petroleum Resources Development	
Programme - 02		Development Activities	
			Rs. Million
		Recurrent Expenditure	-
		Capital Expenditure	65,000
		Total Expenditure	65,000
Project	03	Expressways Development	57,131
		Foreign Loans (Financing Code 12)	55,818
		Foreign Finance Related Domestic Co-Financing (Financing Code 18)	1,313
	04	Highways Development	6,044
		Foreign Loans (Financing Code 12)	5,564
		Foreign Finance Associated Cost (Financing Code 17)	480
	05	Widening & Improvement of Roads	500
		Domestic Funds (Financing Code 11)	500
	06	Construction of Bridges and Flyovers	225
		Foreign Finance Associated Cost (Financing Code 17)	225
	07	Natural Disaster Affected Roads Rehabilitation	1,100
		Foreign Loans (Financing Code 12)	1,100
			65,000

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 32 of 2019 presented on 20th June, 2019.
Supplementary Estimate Nos.1 to 31 Total Rs. 287,939,000,000.

Hon. S. M. Marikkar seconded by Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.06 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama took the Chair.)

The State Minister of City Planning & Water Supply moved,—That Hon. Mujibur Rahuman do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.14 p.m. Hon. Mujibur Rahuman took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Resolution under the Active Liability Management Act: The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a sum not exceeding Rs. 480.0 billion may be raised by way of loans, in or outside Sri Lanka for such purposes as specified in terms of the provisions of the Section 3 of the Active Liability Management Act, No. 8 of 2018.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No. 1): The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2113/9 of 05th March 2019, which was presented on 18.06.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2114/25 of 13th March 2019, which was presented on 18.06.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No. 3) : The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2114/49 of 14th March 2019, which was presented on 18.06.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No. 4) : The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2123/5 of 13th May 2019, which was presented on 18.06.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Adjournment (Shortcomings in Postal Service in Plantation Areas) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development moved,—That Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.31 p.m. Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 7.02 p.m. adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.