



(Eighth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 96.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 1.00 p.m.

PRESENT :

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

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

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 Livestock Development

Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga, Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation

Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance

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

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. 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. Alawathuwalla**, 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. Buddhika Pathirana**, State Minister of Industry & Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons, Co-operative Development, Vocational Training & Skills Development
- Hon. Niroshan Perera**, State Minister of National Policies & Economic Affairs
- Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana**, State Minister of Primary Industries & Social Empowerment
- Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran**, State Minister of Education
- Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma**, State Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment
- Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**, State Minister of Finance
- Hon. Vadivel Suresh**, State Minister of Plantation Industries
- Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen**, State Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Economic Affairs
- Hon. Vasantha Senanayake**, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Hon. Edward Gunasekara**, Deputy Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms
- Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana**, Deputy Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Training
- Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff**, Deputy Minister of Ports & Shipping
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- Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardana**
- Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena**
- Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena**
- Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara**
- Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama**

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. T. B. Ekanayake
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Dunes Gankanda
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Piyasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. H. R. Sarathie Dushmantha
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. S. B. Nawinne
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa

Hon. Susantha Punchinilame
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Arundika Fernando
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Palitha Range Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharooof
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. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
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 Wijesekera

Hon. Duleep Wijesekera

Hon. Hesha Withanage

Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage

Hon. S. Viyalanderan

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

Hon. Kumara Welgama

Hon. S. Shritharan

Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan

Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe

Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe

Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan

Hon. E. Saravanapavan

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya

Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi

Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe

Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa

Hon. D. M. Swaminathan

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti

Hon. H. M. M. Harees

Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath

Hon. Kanaka Herath

Hon. D. B. Herath

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Manoj Hewagampalage

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Official Oath or Affirmation by new Members : (i) Hon. H. M. D. B. Herath, Member of Parliament for Kurunegala Electoral District, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Book at the **Table**.

(ii) Hon. Manoj Prasanga Hewagampalage, Member of Parliament for Matara Electoral District, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Book at the **Table**.

(iii) Hon. Kuda Vidanalage Shantha Bandara, Member of Parliament elected under Article 99A of the Constitution; made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Book at the **Table**.

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The Deputy Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“It is with great regret that I have to announce to Parliament the death of Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera, Member of Parliament of the Matara District. I desire on behalf of the Parliament to express the deep sense of loss that we have sustained, and our sincere sympathy with the members of the family of the Hon. Member.

The Vote of Condolence in this regard will be taken up in Parliament on a future date.”

II

“I wish to make an announcement with regard to the Private Members’ Bill entitled ‘Plastics and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation)’.

This Bill which was presented by Hon. (Dr.) Mrs. Thusitha Wijemanna, M.P. on 11th July 2019 was referred to all Provincial Councils in terms of Article 154G (5) (a) of the Constitution and Provincial Councils were requested to submit their views before 11th September 2019 in terms of Standing Order 51 (2) (a) of the Parliament.

Uva Provincial Council has informed that the Bill has been rejected by majority vote of the Provincial Council.

All other Provincial Councils have been dissolved and the Chief Secretaries of Western and Southern Provincial Councils have informed that their views on the Bill cannot be submitted, as the said Provincial Councils stand dissolved.

However, the Governor of Northern Provincial Council and the Chief Secretary of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council have conveyed their views but not according to the regular procedure laid down in the Constitution.

Eastern, North-Western, Central and North Central Provincial Councils have not responded.

I order that the views of Provincial Councils be referred to the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons, Co-operative Development and Vocational Training & Skills Development.”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2018;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Navy for the year 2018;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Army for the year 2018; and
- (iv) Annual Report of the Rakna Arakshaka Lanka Ltd. for the year 2015/2016

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Finance Commission 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) Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the performance of the Office of the National Police Commission for the year 2017 in the Third Report for the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament on 21.06.2019; and
- (ii) Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the performance of the Finance Commission for the year 2017 in the Third Report for the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament on 21.06.2019

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the performance of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition of the Parliament for the year 2017 in the Third Report for the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament on 21.06.2019 and moved that the 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) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 19 read with Section 51 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 regarding Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2113/11 of 05th March 2019;
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 19 read with Section 51 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 regarding Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2113/46 of 07th March 2019;
- (iii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 19 read with Section 51 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 regarding Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2118/24 of 09th April 2019; and
- (iv) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 33 read with Section 69 of the Finance Business Act, No. 42 of 2011 regarding Priority of Claims in a Winding up of a Licensed Finance Company and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2125/58 of 31st May 2019

and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Department of Commerce for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Road Development Authority for the year 2015 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the performance of the Ministry of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development for the year 2017 in the Third Report for the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament on 21.06.2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

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 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the performance of the Ministry of Telecommunication, Foreign Employment and Sports for the year 2017 in the Third Report for the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament on 21.06.2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development presented the Report of the said Committee on “Regulations under Factories Ordinance (Chapter 128)” which were referred to the said Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —

- (i) a petition dated 22.07.2019 from Mr. Anjula Samarasinghe of No. 326/3, Galpamuna, Palatuwa, Matara; and
- (ii) a petition dated 11.06.2019 from Mr. Nishantha Samaraweera of S. K. Town, Meddawatta, Matara.

(2) Hon. Susantha Punchinilame presented —

- (i) a petition dated 07.08.2019 from Mr. Chaminda Bandara Gunathilake of No. 175, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02;
- (ii) a petition dated 31.07.2019 from Ven. Godagampala Maithri Moorthy Thero of Chief Incumbent, Sri Jayawardenaramaya, Doloswala, Niwithigala;
- (iii) a petition dated 25.07.2019 from Mr. K. H. Chandrasiri and 04 others of No. 53, Parakrama Mawatha, Kantale; and
- (iv) a petition dated 25.07.2019 from Mr. W. K. Nalaka de Silva of No. 38A, Summit Flats, Colombo 5.

(3) Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa presented —

- (i) a petition dated 08.08.2019 from Mr. D. S. Wijerathne of No. 324/1, High Level Road, Maharagama;
- (ii) a petition dated 23.07.2019 from Mrs. K.A. Palika Priyanthi of No. 73, Bandaranayaka Mawatha, Mathugama;
- (iii) a petition dated 22.07.2019 from Mr. P. Sandasiri de Silva Abeygunawardene of No. 106, Hermanwatta, Ganima, Dodangoda; and
- (iv) a petition dated 08.08.2019 from Mr. T. D. V. M. Silva of No.47-415/3, Dombawelagama, Nochchiyagama.

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

6. Shrama Vasana Fund (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development on behalf of the Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development moved,—That “Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama do take the Chair.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.55 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama took the Chair.)

The Minister of Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs moved,— That “Hon. Bimal Rathnayake do take the Chair.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.18 p.m. Hon. Bimal Rathnayake took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development moved,— That “Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.05 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development moved,— That “Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.51 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

(At 6.11 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 8 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Wages Boards (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 13 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

8. Regulations under the Factories Ordinance (No. 1) : The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations under Section 105 of the Factories Ordinance (Chapter 128) read with Section 3 of the aforesaid Ordinance regarding Registration of Factories and Approval of Factory Buildings, which were presented on 20.08.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Factories Ordinance (No. 2) : The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations under Section 105 of the Factories Ordinance (Chapter 128) read with Section 34 of the aforesaid Ordinance regarding Registration of Steam Boilers, which were presented on 20.08.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Factories Ordinance (No. 3) : The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations under Section 105 of the Factories Ordinance (Chapter 128) read with Sections 34, 35, 36, 36A, 38 and 38A of the aforesaid Ordinance regarding issuance of Certificates for Examination of Steam Boilers and other Pressure Vessels, which were presented on 20.08.2019, be approved

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Regulations under the Factories Ordinance (No. 4) : The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations under Section 105 of the Factories Ordinance (Chapter 128) read with Section 58A of the aforesaid Ordinance regarding Protection of Workers from Excessive Noise, which were presented on 20.08.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Regulations under the Factories Ordinance (No. 5) : The Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Labour & Trade Union Relations under Section 105 of the Factories Ordinance (Chapter 128) read with Section 13 of the aforesaid Ordinance regarding General Standard of Lighting, which were presented on 20.08.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Adjournment (Issues faced by Officials in the Educational Sector) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That “this Parliament do now adjourn.”

Question proposed and debated.

The State Minister of Education moved,— That “Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe do take the Chair.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.36 p.m. Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being 7.30 p.m. the Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.