



(Eighth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 97.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, September 18, 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. 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. Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

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

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

Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis & Western Development

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

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

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

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

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 and Higher Education

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, State Minister of Industry & Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons, Co-operative Development, Vocational Training & Skills Development

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

Hon. Vadivel Suresh, State Minister of Plantation Industries

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. Abdullah Mahrooff, Deputy Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Dilum Amunugama

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage

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

Hon. T. B. Ekanayake

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. Piyasena Gamage

Hon. Siripala Gamalath

Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena

Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Arumugan Thondaman
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
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. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Palitha Range Bandara
Hon. Indika Bandaranayake
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana

Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
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. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. E. Saravanapavan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa
Hon. D. M. Swaminathan

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. D. B. 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 Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform the Parliament that I have received the determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Ruhunu Economic Development Corporation of Sri Lanka’ which was challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that in terms of Article 121 and Article 123 of the Constitution that, since the provisions of Clause 16 and Clause 17 of the Bill are in respect of matters set out in the Provincial Council List, and the Bill has not been referred by His Excellency the President to every Provincial Council, for the expression of their views as mandatorily required by Article 154 G (3) of the Constitution, the Bill has not been validly or lawfully placed on the Order Paper of Parliament. Consequently the Bill can be validly and lawfully placed on the Order Paper of Parliament and be placed before Parliament only after the aforesaid procedure has been complied with.

The Supreme Court has further stated, since the Bill has been placed on the Order Paper of Parliament without compliance with the provision of Article 154 G (3), it would not at this stage make a determination as to the other grounds challenged in respect of this Bill.

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

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Fourth Instalment – Part XI and Sixth Instalment – Parts XIX, XX, XXI and XXII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;

- (ii) First Instalment – Parts XXVI and XXVII, Fourth Instalment – Part VI and Sixth Instalment – Parts IX, X, XI and XII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017; and
- (iii) First Instalment – Part I and Fifth Instalment – Part I of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the 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 Cabinet of Ministers 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.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited for the year 2017/18 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Department of Motor Traffic 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.

(5) 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 Transport & Civil Aviation, Department of Motor Traffic and Department of Railways 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.

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Superior Courts Complex Board of Management for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti - corruption) and Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Education for the year 2014 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Prescription (Amendment) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms presented,— “Bill to amend the Prescription Ordinance (Chapter 68).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, October 08, 2019, be printed and be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

4. Trust Receipts (Amendment) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms presented,— “Bill to amend the Trust Receipts Ordinance (Chapter 86).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, October 08, 2019, be printed and be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

5. Select Committee of Parliament to look into and report to Parliament on the terrorist attacks that took place in different places in Sri Lanka on 21st April 2019 : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— In terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament, this Parliament do grant the Select Committee of Parliament appointed by a resolution passed by Parliament on 22nd May 2019 to look into and report to Parliament on the terrorist attacks that took place in different places in Sri Lanka on 21st April 2019, an extension of time till 31st October 2019 to present its final report.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Leave to withdraw a Bill : Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe moved,— That leave be granted to withdraw the “Computer Society of Sri Lanka (Incorporation)” Bill introduced on 26th January 2016.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 1.55 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development moved,—That “Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.06 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That “Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.55 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That “Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama do take the Chair.”

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.55 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development 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 Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 15, in page 1 and substitute the following,—

“143(1)(b), 144(1)(b), 144(2)(a) and 144(2)(b) as the”;

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

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

Clauses 3 to 31 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 with Amendments.

The Minister of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

8. Adjournment : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That “this Parliament do now adjourn.”

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 5.13 p.m. adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2019.