



(Eighth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 10.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 06, 2020 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Transport Service Management and Minister of Power & Energy

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign Relations and Minister of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Information and Mass Media and Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation

Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon, Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. Arumugan Thondaman, Minister of Community Empowerment and Estate Infrastructure Development

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Export Agriculture

Hon. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Roads and Highways and Minister of Ports & Shipping and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Industrial Export and Investment Promotion and Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development and Minister of Internal Trade, Food Security and Consumer Welfare and State Minister of Defence

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Women & Child Affairs and Social Security and Minister of Healthcare and Indigenous Medical Services

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, State Minister of Irrigation and Rural Development
Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena, State Minister of Information and Communication Technology
Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Transport Services Management
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Public Management and Accounting
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, State Minister of Renewable Energy & Power
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister of Industries
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, State Minister of Human Rights and Law Reforms
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake, State Minister of Youth Affairs
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka, State Minister of Wildlife Resources
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, State Minister of Water Supply Facilities
Hon. Susantha Punchinilame, State Minister of Small & Medium Enterprise Development
Hon. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Tourism Promotion Affairs
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha, State Minister of International Co-operation
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Social Security
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Women & Child Affairs
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, State Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Welfare
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, State Minister of Railway Services
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Highways Development
Hon. Nimal Lanza, State Minister of Community Development
Hon. Gamini Lokuge, State Minister of Urban Development
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Export Agriculture
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera, State Minister of Environment
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, State Minister of Technology and Innovations
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Development Banking and Loan Schemes
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Housing

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail
Hon. T. B. Ekanayake
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Dunesh Gankanda
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Daya Gamage
Hon. Siripala Gamalath
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Navin Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. A. D. Premadasa

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. (Mrs.) Chandrani Bandara

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara

Hon. Palitha Range Bandara

Hon. Shantha Bandara

Hon. Indika Bandaranayake

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen

Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka

Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor

Hon. S. M. Marikkar

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana

Hon. K. Kader Masthan

Hon. Imran Maharoof

Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. Tilak Marapana

Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe

Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana

Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage

Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga

Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera

Hon. Saman Rathnapriya

Hon. Bimal Rathnayake

Hon. Ishak Rahuman

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan

Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake

Hon. Waruna Liyanage

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe

Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene

Hon. A. A. Wijethunga

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Duleep Wijesekera
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Mangala Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. E. Saravanapavan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe
Hon. Vasantha Senanayake
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

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

I

“I wish to inform that, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 113(1) of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on the 05th of February 2020, the following Members have been nominated, with the Deputy Speaker as the Chair and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee: —

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
 Hon. Johnston Fernando
 Hon. Gamini Lokuge
 Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala
 Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
 Hon. Faiszer Musthapha
 Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran
 Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
 Hon. Edward Gunasekara
 Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
 Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
 Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
 Hon. Sisira Jayakody
 Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa”

II

“I wish to inform the Parliament that the Bills which had been referred to the Legislative Standing Committee in the previous Sessions of the Eighth Parliament and not presented its report to the Parliament will be referred to the Legislative Standing Committee.”

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

- (i) Third Instalment – Part XV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2014;
- (ii) Fourth Instalment – Part XII and Sixth Instalment – Parts XXIV and XXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;
- (iii) Fourth Instalment – Part X and Sixth Instalment – Parts XX, XXI, XXII and XXIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;

- (iv) First Instalment – Parts XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII and XXIII, Fourth Instalment – Parts III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII, Fifth Instalment – Parts V, VI, VII and VIII and Sixth Instalment – Parts IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII and XXIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018; and
- (v) Eighth Instalment – Part II and Tenth Instalment – Parts XIV, XVI, XVII, XVIII and XIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019

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 Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development and Minister of Internal Trade, Food Security and Consumer Welfare and State Minister of Defence presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2018; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Civil Security Department for the year 2018

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Roads and Highways and Minister of Ports & Shipping presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on Ceylon Petroleum Corporation in the Third Report for the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the period from 01.03.2018 to 26.10.2018 which was presented to Parliament on 23.10.2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Roads and Highways and Minister of Ports & Shipping 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 Department of Government Information 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. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Orders under the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007;
- (ii) Resolutions under the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235);
- (iii) Regulation under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017;

- (iv) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (v) Orders under the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002;
- (vi) Orders under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989; and
- (vii) Notes 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

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Foreign Relations and Minister of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2134/44 of 01st August 2019, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

(At 1.30 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Export Agriculture moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.33 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama took the Chair.)

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe seconded by Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen moved,—That Hon. Lucky Jayawardana do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.20 p.m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardana took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Agriculture moved,—That Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.00 p.m. Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Water Supply Facilities moved,—That Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.35 p.m. Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2135/54 of 08th August 2019, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 3) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2135/67 of 10th August 2019, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 4) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2139/74 of 07th September 2019, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 5) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2140/20 of 10th September 2019, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 6) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2143/3 of 30th September 2019, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 7) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2143/21 of 02nd October 2019, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance (No. 1) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2140/19 of 10th September 2019)

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance (No. 2) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2142/87 of 27th September 2019)

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 relating to Classes of Capital Transactions in Foreign Exchange Carried on by Authorized dealers and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2145/49 of 17th October 2019, which were presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(3) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2143/36 of 03rd October 2019 amended the printing errors by the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2146/23 of 22nd October 2019, which were presented on 07.11.2019, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(3) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2152/63 of 06th December 2019, which were presented on 08.01.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Order under the Value Added Tax Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development under Section 2A of the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002 amended by the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Act, No. 6 of 2005, relating to Value Added Tax and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2151/52 of 29th November 2019, which was presented on 08.01.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

17. Order under the Value Added Tax Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Minister of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and Minister of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economy and Policy Development under Section 2A of the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002 amended by the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Act, No. 6 of 2005, relating to Value Added Tax and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2152/60 of 06th December 2019, which was presented on 08.01.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

18. Adjournment (Employees Recruited to the Department of Cultural Affairs and to the Central Cultural Fund) : The Minister of Justice, Human Rights & Legal Reforms moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 7.02 p.m. adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Friday, February 07, 2020.