



(Eighth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 13.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 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. 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. S. M. Chandrasena, Minister of Environment and Wildlife Resources and Minister of Lands & Land Development

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

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. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, State Minister of Irrigation and Rural Development

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena, State Minister of Information and Communication Technology

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Public Management and Accounting

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. Roshan Ranasinghe, State Minister of Mahaweli 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. Kanchana Wijesekara, State Minister of Tea Industry Development
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera, State Minister of Environment
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, State Minister of Technology and Innovations
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Housing

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Atukorale
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare
Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail
Hon. T. B. Ekanayake
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage
Hon. Daya Gamage
Hon. Piyasena Gamage

Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. Edward Gunasekera
Hon. Mohan Lal Grero
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Malith Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva
Hon. Palany Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer
Hon. S. B. Nawinne
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. A. D. Premadasa
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Chandrani Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Palitha Range Bandara

Hon. Indika Bandaranayake
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Saman Rathnapriya
Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Duleep Wijesekera
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. Malik Samarawickrama
Hon. Mangala Samaraweera
Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senaratne
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa
Hon. D. M. Swaminathan
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Abdul Haleem
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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Third Instalment – Part XI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2013;

- (ii) Ninth Instalment – Part XVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;
- (iii) Second Instalment – Part XXV, Third Instalment – Part XI and Ninth Instalment – Parts XII, XIII, XIV and XV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (iv) Second Instalment – Parts XXIII and XXIV, Third Instalment – Part XII and Ninth Instalment – Parts X, XI and XII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018; and
- (v) Eighth Instalment – Part II of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020

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 Foreign Relations and Minister of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine under Section 72 read with Section 19(e) of the Medical Ordinance (Chapter 105) published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2055/54 of 26th January 2018 and amending those Regulations by the Minister of Healthcare and Indigenous Medical Services published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2155/15 of 26th December 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.

(3) The Minister of Foreign Relations and Minister of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations presented the Annual Report of the National Research Council for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Foreign Relations and Minister of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations 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 Local government bodies of Central Province 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 Foreign Relations and Minister of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations presented the Annual Reports of the Palmyrah

Development Board for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe, 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) Nation Building Tax (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Economic Service Charge (Amendment) Bill;
- (iii) Ports and Airports Development Levy (Amendment) Bill;
- (iv) Resolution under the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and
- (v) 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

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment presented the Report compiled by the said Committee on, “Acquisition of Estate Medical Units to the Government”.

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

(3) Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Export Agriculture for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018;
- (ii) Annual Performance Reports of the Ministry of Primary Industries for the years 2016 and 2017;
- (iii) Annual Reports of Industrial Development Board for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016;
- (iv) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the National Design Centre for the year 2016;
- (v) Annual Report of the National Enterprise Development Authority for the year 2014;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited for the year 2016/2017;
- (vii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Cement Corporation for the year 2015;
- (viii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons, Co-operative Development, Vocational Training and Skills Development for the year 2018;
- (ix) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Textile Industry for the year 2018; and

- (x) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mantai Salt Limited for the years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services presented the Report compiled by the said Committee on, “The Wreck of ‘MV CORDIALITY’ Ship in Pulmoddai Sea and the dispute over the ownership of Cargo - Ilmenite”.

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

(5) Hon. Malith Jayathilake, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security presented the Report compiled by the said Committee on, “Proposals for formulation and implementation of relevant laws required to ensure National security that will eliminate New Terrorism and extremism by strengthening friendship among Races and Religions”.

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

(6) Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Orders under Section 20(4)(b) of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978;
- (ii) Annual Report of the University of Visual and Performing Arts for the year 2018;
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Education Commission for the year 2017;
- (iv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka for the year 2017;
- (v) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences of University of Peradeniya for the year 2017;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute of University of Kelaniya for the year 2017;
- (vii) Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Institute of Technology of University of Moratuwa for the year 2018;
- (viii) Annual Report of the University of Colombo for the year 2018;
- (ix) Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2017;
- (x) Annual Report of the University of Buddhist and Pali for the year 2018;
- (xi) Thirty Ninth Annual Report of University Grants Commission for the year 2017;
- (xii) Annual Reports of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2017 and 2018;
- (xiii) Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Kelaniya for the year 2018;
- (xiv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Printing for the year 2014;

- (xv) Annual Report of the University of Jaffna for the year 2017;
- (xvi) Annual Performance Report of the Educational Publication Department for the year 2017;
- (xvii) Annual Report of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for the year 2016;
- (xviii) Annual Report of the Institute of Indigenous Medicine of University of Colombo for the year 2018;
- (xix) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of University of Peradeniya for the year 2018;
- (xx) Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of English of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2018;
- (xxi) Annual Report & Accounts of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for the year 2018;
- (xxii) Annual Report of the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences for the year 2018;
- (xxiii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Management of University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2018;
- (xxiv) Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements of the Institute of Human Resource Advancement of University of Colombo for the year 2018;
- (xxv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2018;
- (xxvi) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine for the year 2018;
- (xxvii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education for the year 2018; and
- (xxviii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Archeology of the University of Kelaniya for the year 2017

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(7) Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development presented the Report compiled by the said Committee on, "Introduction of Industry Oriented Computer Degree Programs into Sri Lankan State and Non-State Universities".

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

3. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 1.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 2.00 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sittings of Parliament on Thursday, 20th February 2020 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. At 12.30 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 7.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Institute of Environmental Professionals, Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill : Order for consideration read.

Bill, as amended in the Legislative Standing Committee Considered.

The Minister of Foreign Relations and Minister of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations moved,— That the amendments made by the Legislative Standing Committee be agreed to.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Foreign Relations and Minister of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations 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.

6. Adjournment (Forensic Audit Reports on Issuance of Treasury Bonds) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

(At 2.50 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. D. B. Herath seconded by Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila moved,—That Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.35 p.m. Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Public Management and Accounting moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.52 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Welfare moved,—That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.12 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

And it being 6.30 p.m. the Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2020 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.