



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 8.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, September 11, 2020 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena, Minister of Lands

Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon, Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation

Hon. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Health

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Justice

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection

- Hon. Ajith Nivard Cabraal**, State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms
- Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa**, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
- Hon. D. V. Chanaka**, State Minister of Aviation and Export Zones Development
- Hon. Sisira Jayakody**, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health
- Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne**, State Minister of Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation Development related to Rural Paddy Fields
- Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification
- Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara**, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products
- Hon. Jeevan Thondaman**, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure
- Hon. Sanath Nishantha**, State Minister of Rural and Divisional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development
- Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**, State Minister of Prison Reforms & Prisoners' Rehabilitation
- Hon. Susil Premajayantha**, State Minister of Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion
- Hon. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Bhikkhu Education, Piriven and Buddhist Universities
- Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion
- Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe**, State Minister of Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development
- Hon. Lohan Rathwaththe**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries
- Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa**, State Minister of Paddy and Grains, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promotion, Seed Production and Advanced Technology Agriculture
- Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura**, State Minister of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion
- Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka**, State Minister of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion
- Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera**, State Minister of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish & Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multi day Fishing Activities and Fish Exports
- Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage**, State Minister of Rural and School Sports Infrastructure Improvement

- Hon. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Postal Services and Professional Development of Journalists
- Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera**, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government
- Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Material Industries
- Hon. Kanaka Herath**, State Minister of Company Estate Reforms, Tea Estate Related Crops, Tea Factory Modernization and Tea Export Promotion
- Hon. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries
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- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Kapila Athukorala**
- Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Tiran Alles**
- Hon. Naseer Ahamed**
- Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**
- Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda**
- Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna**
- Hon. Lalith Ellawala**
- Hon. Govindan Karunakaram**
- Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka**
- Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam**
- Hon. Faizal Cassim**
- Hon. Lakshman Kiriella**
- Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda**
- Hon. Jagath Kumara**
- Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga**
- Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe**
- Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar**
- Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku**
- Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda**

Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoo
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
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 that the Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan has been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on High Posts during the Ninth Parliament in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 114 (2) of the Parliament.”

II

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Standing Orders, during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament with the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 116 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 28th August 2020:—

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi

Hon. Susil Premajayantha

Hon. Dilan Perera

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Sujith Perera

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan”

III

“I wish to inform that I have nominated the following Members of Parliament have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Accounts during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament, in terms of Standing Order 119 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 27th August 2020:—

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms) Harini Amarasuriya”

IV

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Enterprises during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 120 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 27th August 2020:—

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dilum Amunugama
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Ajith Nivard Cabraal
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath”

V

“I wish to inform that, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Public Petitions during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 122(1) of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 28th August 2020:—

Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe”

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

- (i) Ninth Instalment – Part XIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (ii) Second Instalment – Part XXIX and Ninth Instalment – Parts XVIII and XIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018; and
- (iii) Third Instalment – Part I 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 Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Speaker presented the Report of the Auditor-General on Public Representation Received to the National Audit Office during the Period from 01st August 2018 to 31st July 2019 and Its Current Situation, 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.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Department of the Registrar of Companies for the year 2018;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Audit Service Commission for the year 2019;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Finance Commission for the year 2019.
- (iv) Performance Report of the Election Commission for the year 2019; and
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Cultural Affairs for the year 2019.

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

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the —

- (i) 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 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2126/21 of 04th June 2019;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education and Technology and Innovation under Section 27(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2160/39 of 30th January 2020.
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 27(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2160/43 of 30th January 2020;
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 27(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2160/44 of 30th January 2020;

- (v) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 27(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2160/45 of 30th January 2020
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 20(4)(b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2163/23 of 19th February 2020; and
- (vii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 27(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2182/40 of 03rd July 2020.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Co-operative Employees Commission for the year 2019.

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

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Posts for the year 2019.

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 Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of Sitting of Parliament on this day 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.

4. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, from 22nd September 2020, the hours of Sittings of Parliament on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament shall be 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 4.30 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Committee on High Posts : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Orders 124(1) and 127(1) of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament, on 08th September, 2020, to serve in the Ninth Parliament the Committee on High Posts shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and eighteen (18) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 22nd September, 2020.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Votes of Condolence : The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved the Vote of Condolence on the late Hon. Arumugan Thondaman, ex-Member of Parliament.

(At 11.32 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 12.01 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Company Estate Reforms, Tea Estate Related Crops, Tea Factory Modernization and Tea Export Promotion moved,— That Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products moved,— That Hon. Isuru Dodangoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.13 p.m. Hon. Isuru Dodangoda took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Prison Reforms & Prisoners' Rehabilitation moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.02 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 5.56 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

The Speaker announced that he associated himself with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the death of the late Hon. Arumugan Thondaman, ex-Member of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send a copy of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of his bereaved family.

8. Adjournment : And it being 6.30 p.m., Parliament was adjourned by the Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.