



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 11.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 10.00 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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

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

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education

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

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

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

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Canals and Common Infrastructure Development in Settlements in Mahaweli Zones

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health

Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification

Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana, State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products

Hon. Jeevan Thondaman, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure

Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Women and Child Development, Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, State Minister of Production and Supply of Fertilizer and Regulation of Chemical Fertilizer and Insecticide Use

Hon. Duminda Dissanayake, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development

Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake, State Minister of Wildlife Protection, Adoption of Safety Measures including the Construction of Electrical Fences and Trenches and Reforestation and Forest Resource Development

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. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Regional Co-operation

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. 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. Nimal Lanza**, State Minister of Rural Roads and other Infrastructure
- 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. Jayantha Samaraweera**, State Minister of Warehouse Facilities, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats and Shipping Industry Development
- Hon. Shehan Semasinghe**, State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self Employment, Business Development and Underutilized State Resources Development
- 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

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Tiran Alles
Hon. Naseer Ahamed
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana

Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. Sujith Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
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 announce Parliament that I have received a copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution’ ”.

II

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committees during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 112 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 08th September 2020:—

1. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence

Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa

Hon. Tiran Alles

Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda

2. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
3. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
4. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development & Housing
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
5. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice
Hon. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
6. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
7. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Sudath Manjula
8. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
9. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe

10. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
11. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
12. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife & Forest Conservation
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
13. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
14. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegodra
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
15. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Lands
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
16. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
17. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
18. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe

19. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
20. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Energy
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
21. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports & Shipping
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Sivanessathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. D. Weerasingha
22. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Highways
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. H. Nandasena
23. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
24. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth & Sports
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
25. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
26. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Marjan Faleel
27. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

28. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media

Hon. Shantha Bandara

Hon. Uddika Premarathne

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath ”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways 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 Office of the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts;
- (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 National Audit Office in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts;
- (iii) 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 Audit Service Commission in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts; and
- (iv) 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 National Procurement Commission in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Foreign presented the—

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Leader of the House of Parliament for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition of Parliament for the year 2019.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Chief Government Whip of Parliament for the year 2019.

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

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) 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 the Ceylon Electricity Board in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament; and

- (ii) 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 the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament,

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

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara presented —
- (i) a petition dated 14.08.2020 from Mr. W. A. Amith Kumara Perera of No. 49/A, Ananda Balika Mawatha, Pagoda Road, Pitakotte; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 14.08.2020 from Mr. W. A. Amith Kumara Perera and eight others of No. 49/A, Ananda Balika Mawatha, Pagoda Road, Pitakotte .
- (2) Hon. Sanath Nishantha presented a petition dated 21.08.2020 from Mr. S. Chandrasena of No. 14, Katana New Town Housing Scheme, Demanhandiya.
- (3) Hon. Jayarathna Herath presented a petition dated 30.08.2020 from Mr. B. A. Jinapala Amarasinghe of No. 192, Godawela, Polgahawela.
- (4) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 19.08.2020 from Mr. Premalal Abeykoon of No. A 7/2, Peellamulawatta, Poththukoladeniya, Kegalle.

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

4. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 11th September 2020, the hours of Sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 11.00 a.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. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Orders 50(2) and 111 of the Parliament, Standing Orders 50(2) and 111 of the Parliament shall be suspended with effect from 25th September 2020, until the Members are nominated to Sectoral Oversight Committees.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment (Performance Report of Finance Commission for the Fourth Quarter of 2019) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

The State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms moved,—That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.15 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.42 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.31 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. the Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put; pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2020