



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 13.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, October 06, 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. 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. C. B. Rathnayake, Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media

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. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

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. 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. 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. Piyanakara 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. 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. 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. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas and Bhikkhu Education

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. 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 Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandary & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation
- 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 and Business Development
- Hon. Kanaka Herath**, State Minister of Company Estate Reforms, Tea and Rubber Estates Related Crops Cultivation and Factories Modernization and Tea and Rubber 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. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala**
- Hon. Sampath Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Naseer Ahamed**

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
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. 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. Milan Jayathilake
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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
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. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
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. 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. Rohana 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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
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. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
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

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 announce to the Parliament that I have received copies of twenty five petitions filed at the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution’, in addition to the receipt of petitions mentioned in the announcements made by me on 24th and 25th September 2020.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the Second Instalment – Part II, Third Instalment – Part II and Ninth 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 Tenth Instalment – Part XVII of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on the Storage and Distribution of Petroleum in Sri Lanka, 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 Reports of the Department of Government Factory for the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Buildings for the year 2018;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Cultural Affairs Division of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Cultural Affairs for the year 2019;
- (iv) Performance Report of the Housing & Construction Division of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Cultural Affairs for the year 2019;
- (v) Performance Report of the Ministry of Community Empowerment and Estate Infrastructure Development for the year 2019;
- (vi) Performance Report of the Social Security Division of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Security for the year 2019; and
- (vii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Museums for the year 2019.

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

(4) The Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management presented the Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Police for the year 2019.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways 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 Office of the Chief Government Whip of Parliament in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 20(4)(b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, with regard to the appointment of Emeritus of Professor Weerakoon Mudiyansele Abeyrathna Bandara as the Competent Authority in lieu of Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka with effect from June 13, 2020 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2182/6 of 29th June 2020;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 20(4)(b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, with regard to the appointment of Dr. Nawaratnage Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne as the Competent Authority in lieu of Director of the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa with effect from April 01, 2020 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2182/7 of 29th June 2020; and

- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 20(4)(b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, with regard to the appointment of Prof. S. M. A. Nanayakkara as the Competent Authority in lieu of Director of the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa with effect from July 01, 2020 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2182/34 of 01st July 2020.

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

(7) The Minister of Education 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 Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Transport presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Transport Services Management for the year 2019.

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

(9) The Minister of Highways 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 Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Tourism presented the Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation for the year 2019.

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

(11) The Minister of Highways 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 Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Legal Reforms in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Gamini Lokuge presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 03.09.2020 from Ms. K. A. Ruwami Tharudani of No. 92/3, Thumbovila, Piliyandala;
 - (ii) a petition dated 03.09.2020 from Mr. P. F. Fonseka of No. 32/A, Pepiliyana Road, Nugegoda;
 - (iii) a petition dated 03.09.2020 from Mr. P. R. L. Peiris of No. 79/51, Prathibimbarama Road, Dehiwala; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 02.09.2020 from Mr. R. M. Tikiri Banda of No. 41/1, Bimbarama Road, Piliyandala.
- (2) Hon. S. M. Chandrasena presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 04.09.2020 from Mrs. A. M. Chandrika Priyadharshani Kumari Abeysinghe of Dumriya Nagaraya, Medawachchiya;
 - (ii) a petition dated 22.08.2020 from Mr. D. M. S. R. Seneviratne of Pihibiyagollewa, Madawachchiya; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 28.08.2020 from Mr. D. R. C. Dissanayake of No. 17, Police Quarters, Air Port Road, Anuradhapura.
- (3) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 06.09.2020 from Mr. B. G. W. Jayasinghe of No. 116/F, Kiriwelewatta, Millethe, Kirindiwela;
 - (ii) a petition dated 04.09.2020 from Mr. R. A. Senevirathne of No. 68/02, Kimbulhena Watta, Nittambuwa; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 04.09.2020 from Mr. R. P. W. Rajapaksa of No. 374, “Siri Sevana”, Dangalla, Pepiliyawala.
- (4) Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala presented a petition dated 25.08.2020 from Mr. W. M. Greshan Sunil of No. 30, Dimuthugama, Kaduruwela.
- (5) Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake presented a petition dated 04.09.2020 from Mr. Indrajith Ravindu Basnayake of No. 64/15, Green Park Road, 26th Mile Post, Nittambuwa.

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

4. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 to 10 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 121 of the Parliament at the Sittings on Tuesday 06th and Wednesday 07th, October 2020.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 11th September 2020, from 06th October 2020, the hours of Sitting of Parliament on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament shall be 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.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.

(At 1.30 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

6. Finance (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 2.22 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees 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 3.30 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 4.19 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing 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 Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 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 without Amendments.

The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act : The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic and Policy Development under Section 20 read with Sections 4(3) and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by the Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987, published in the Extraordinary Gazettes No. 2171/5 of 16th April 2020, No. 2176/19 of 22nd May 2020, No. 2182/10 of 30th June 2020 and No. 2184/21 of 16th July 2020, which were presented on 25.09.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Establishment of a Professional Unit at Kuliyaipitiya Teaching Hospital) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Foreign moved,—That Hon. Isuru Dodangoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.26 p.m. Hon. Isuru Dodangoda 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 Wednesday, October 07, 2020.