



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 17.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, October 20, 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. 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 National Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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

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. 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. 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. 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. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Coconut, Kithul and Palmyrah Cultivation
Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing & Export
Diversification

- 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. 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. Vidura Wikramanayaka**, State Minister of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion
- Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera**, 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. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Material Industries
- 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

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kapila 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. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
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. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
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. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. 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. 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. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
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. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. Heshu 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. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
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

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 Parliament that I have endorsed the certificates on the Bills entitled ‘**Finance (Amendment)**’, ‘**Nation Building Tax (Amendment)**’, ‘**Economic Service Charge (Amendment)**’ and ‘**Ports and Airports Levy (Amendment)**’ on 12th October 2020, in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received the determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill entitled ‘**Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution**’ which has been challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121 (1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined as follows:—

the Bill Complies with the provisions of Article 82(1) of the Constitution;

requires to be passed by a special majority specified in Article 82(5) of the Constitution;

Clauses 3, 5, 14 and 22, in their present form are inconsistent with Article 3 read with Article 4 of the Constitution and therefore require approval by the People at a Referendum by virtue of the provisions of Article 83;

However, such inconsistency in Clauses 3 and 14 would cease by amending in accordance with the proposed Committee Stage amendments and the inconsistency in Clause 5 would cease, if Clause 5 is suitably amended as specified in the determination.

I order that the determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings.”

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

- (i) Order made by the Minister of City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Information Technology Honours Degree awarded by Esoft Metro Campus (Pvt) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2139/25 of 03rd September 2019;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business Administration Degree awarded by Saegis Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2141/81 of 20th September 2019;

- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business Management in Tourism Hospitality and Events Degree awarded by National School of Business Management Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2164/54 of 27th February 2020;
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Technology Honours in Environmental Technology Degree and the Bachelor of Science Honours in Bio Systems Engineering Degree awarded by SLT Campus (Pvt) Limited, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2164/54 of 27th February 2020;
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Education Honours Degree and the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology/ Bachelor of Science Honours in Information Technology Degrees awarded by Horizon College of Business and Technology (Pvt) Ltd and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2164/54 of 27th February 2020;
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Master of Business Administration in Management Strategy Degree awarded by KAATSU — Highly Advanced Medical Technology Training Centre (Pvt) Limited (KIU) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2164/54 of 27th February 2020; and
- (vii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Science Honours on Chemical Science Degree awarded by Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2166/14 of 11th March 2020.

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

(2) The Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government presented the Annual Performance Report of the Provincial Councils & Local Government Division of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils & Local Government for the year 2019.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Duminda Disanayake presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 25.08.2020 from Mr. L. W. W. Saman Kumara Siriwardhana of Nadun Sewana, Kudawewa, Medawachchi;
 - (ii) a petition dated 24.08.2020 from Mr. Matugamage Pamarathne of No. 344, Dodamkumburawatta, Alawwa; and

- (iii) a petition dated 31.08.2020 from Mr. D. M. Dharmadasa of Kandara Rathmale, Upuldeniya, Anuradhapura.
- (2) Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 04.09.2020 from Mr. R. D. Nimal Premarathne of No. 122/A, Kandegedara, Matale; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 25.08.2020 from Mr. E. M. K. Wijerathne of No. 2/140, Ukuwelawatta, Ukuwela; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 08.09.2020 from Mrs. T. G. Rasika Damayanthi of No. 59, Near Water Tank, Loluwala Road, Kaikawala.
- (3) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 01.09.2020 from Mr. N. P. Dias of No. 60/6, Mangalathiriya, Kalagedihena.

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

4. Appropriation (2020) : The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing presented,—“Bill to provide for the service of the financial year 2020; to authorize the raising of loans in or outside Sri Lanka, for the purpose of such service; to make financial provision in respect of certain activities of the Government during that financial year; to enable the payment by way of advances out of the Consolidated Fund or any other fund or moneys of, or at the disposal of the Government, of moneys required during that financial year for expenditure on such activities; to provide for the refund of such moneys to the Consolidated Fund and to make provision for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, November 03, 2020 and be printed.

5. Appropriation (2021) : The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing presented,—“Bill to provide for the service of the financial year 2021; to authorize the raising of loans in or outside Sri Lanka, for the purpose of such service; to make financial provision in respect of certain activities of the Government during that financial year; to enable the payment by way of advances out of the Consolidated Fund or any other fund or moneys of, or at the disposal of the Government, of moneys required during that financial year for expenditure on such activities; to provide for the refund of such moneys to the Consolidated Fund and to make provision for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, November 03, 2020 and be printed.

6. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Trade moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Industrial Export and Investment Promotion under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 relating to Cess and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2182/21 of 30th June 2020, which was presented on 09.10.2020, be approved.

(At 12.14 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The State Minister of Paddy and Grains, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chilies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promotion, Seed Production and Advanced Technology Agriculture moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.11 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Trade moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Industrial Export and Investment Promotion under Section 14(2) of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 relating to Cess and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2182/22 of 30th June 2020, which was presented on 09.10.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Sustainable Solution to Elephant - Human Conflict) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being 5.30 p.m. the Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2020.