



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 101.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Policies & Plan Implementation, 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 Mass Media

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Education 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. 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 Health

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

Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Power

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

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera, Minister of Public Security

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

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry and State Minister of Community Police Services

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

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, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

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

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. 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 Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control

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. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries

Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Promoting the Production & Regulating the Supply of Organic Fertilizer, and Paddy and Grains, Organic Foods, Vegetables, Fruits, Chilies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promoting, 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. 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. 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
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- 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. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Tiran Alles**
- 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. Gayantha Karunatileka**
- Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam**
- Hon. Faizal Cassim**
- Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda**

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
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. 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. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
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. 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. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, 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 announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that I have under the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, endorsed the certificate on the Bills entitled ‘Registration of Electors (Amendment)’ and ‘Employees’ Provident Fund’ on 13th October 2021.”

II

“I wish to inform that, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 112 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 21st September 2021, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Development Co-ordination and Monitoring, during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament:—

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Isuru Dodangoda

Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report & Accounts of the Registrar General’s Department for the year 2019.

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

(2) The Minister of Labour presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Labour for the year 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Highways for the year 2020.

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

(4) The Minister of Transport presented the—

(i) Performance Report of the Department of Sri Lanka Railway for the year 2019; and

(ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Transport for the year 2020

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Reports of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited for the years 2018 and 2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Trade presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Commerce for the year 2020.

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

(8) The Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government presented the Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the Department of Pensions for the year 2020.

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

(9) The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation presented the Performance Report of the Department of Forest Conservation for the year 2019.

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

(10) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the National Savings Bank for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Highways presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2247/12 of 29th September 2021 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Highways presented the—

(i) Annual Report of the Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited for the year 2018/2019; and

(ii) Annual Report of the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka for the year 2019

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(13) The Minister of Tourism presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Chair of Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Orders under the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008; and
- (ii) Budget Estimate for the Year 2022 of the National Audit Office

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. M. U. M. Ali Sabry, Chair of Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15 of 1979 (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Youthful Offenders (Training Schools) Amendment Bill;
- (iii) Penal Code (Amendment) Bill; and
- (iv) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice under Section 840 of the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101) read with Section 214 of the said Code and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2234/67 dated 2nd July 2021

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —

- (i) a petition dated 05.07.2021 from Mr. B. G. Ananda Bulanawewa of ‘Sampath Niwasa’, Mahawehera, Madipola; and
- (ii) a petition dated 17.05.2021 from Mr. V. Ariyaratnam of Thombuwar Road, Pandirippu 01, Kalmunai.

(2) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented a petition dated 01.07.2021 from Mrs. L. H. Chandrakanthi of No. 348, Dambagolla Road, Galewela.

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

5. Appropriation (Amendment) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance presented,—Bill to amend the Appropriation Act, No. 7 of 2020.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Monday, November 08, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

6. Sitzings 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 and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06th October 2020, the hours of Sitting of Parliament on Friday, October 22nd, 2021 shall be 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 12.00 noon 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.

7. Business of the Parliament (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Standing Order 75 (1) of the Parliament shall operate with the substitution of the words “Twenty-three” for the words “Twenty-six” for the consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2022).

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Business of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That November 13th Saturday, 15th Monday, 16th Tuesday, 17th Wednesday, 19th Friday, 20th Saturday and 22nd Monday, 2021 shall be allotted days for the consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2022).

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of sittings of Parliament on allotted days for the consideration the of “Appropriation” Bill (2022) from Saturday 13th November to Saturday 20th November, 2021 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.00 p.m. paragraph (5) and (6) of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of sitting on Monday 22nd November, 2021 allotted for the consideration of “Appropriation” Bill (2022) shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.. At 5.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Chandima Weerakkody seconded by Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Dassana Bauddha Sanvidhanaya.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs for report.

12. Youthful Offenders (Training Schools) (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.30 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. Madhura Withanage seconded by Hon. Uddika Premarathne moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 2.49 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into a Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out the marginal note in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“Short title
and date of
operation”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 3 were agreed to.

Clause 4

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out line 15, in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“4. Section 16 of the principal enactment is hereby”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out the marginal note, in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“Amendment of
section 16 of the
principal
enactment”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 5 was agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice 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.

13. Penal Code (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into a 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 Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

14. Regulations under the Civil Procedure Code : The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice under Section 840, read with Section 214 of the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2234/67 of 02nd July 2021, which were presented on 21.09.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Adjournment (Issues in Sudden Transition to Organic Agriculture) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Highways moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.08 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.12 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being past 6.00 p.m. Parliament was at 6.03 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member, without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 08th October 2021.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, October 22, 2021.