



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 103.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, November 08, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

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. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy

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. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

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

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Foreign Minister

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

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports, Minister of Development Co-ordination and Monitoring and State Minister of Digital Technology and Enterprise Development

Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Power

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

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. 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. 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. Dayasiri Jayasekara**, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products
- Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva**, State Minister of Coast Conservation & Low-Lying Lands 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. 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 Provincial Councils & Local Government
- 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 Wijsekera**, State Minister of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish & Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multi day Fishing Activities and Fish Exports
- Hon. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandary & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation
- 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. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Naseer Ahamed

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella

Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda

Hon. Mano Ganesan

Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan

Hon. Milan Jayathilake

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon

Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake

Hon. S. B. 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. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
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. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
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. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
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 announcement:—

“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 certificates on the Bills entitled ‘Youthful Offenders (Training Schools) (Amendment)’ and ‘Penal Code (Amendment)’ on 26 October 2021.”

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

- (i) Ninth Instalment – Part XXII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (ii) Ninth Instalment – Part XXII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019; and
- (iii) Second Instalment – Parts III and IV and Third Instalment – Part II of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020

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 Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Economic Policies & Plan Implementation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Buildings for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) for the year 2020; and
- (iii) Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2251/64 of 29th October 2021 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979.

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

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Transport Medical Institute for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Department of Motor Traffic for the year 2020.

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

(6) The Minister of Trade presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Production, Supply & Regulation of Pharmaceuticals for the year 2020.

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

(8) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Thurusaviya Fund for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the year 2019.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 32 read with Sections 8 and 30 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended, relating to Excise Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2234/23 of 30th June 2021;
(Excise Notification No. 08/2021)
- (ii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 32 read with Sections 8 and 30 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended, relating to Excise Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2241/3 of 16th August 2021;
(Excise Notification No. 09/2021)
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3C of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989, as amended, relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2239/16 of 03rd August 2021; and
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2240/21 of 11th August 2021

and moved that those Notifications and Orders be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Lands presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the Land Title Settlement Department for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Land Commissioner General's Department for the year 2020.

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

(11) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Animal Production and Health for the year 2020.

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

(12) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Community Based Corrections for the year 2020.

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

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for the year 2016 which was referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Appropriation Bill (for the Financial Year 2022);
- (ii) Appropriation (Amendment) Bill; and
- (iii) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Heshan Withanage presented a petition dated 01.09.2021 from Mr. J. K. N. L. Jayanetti of No. 261/6, Pussell Addara, Kandahena, Horana.

(2) Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura presented a petition dated 04.07.2021 from Mr. K. D. Thilakarathne of No. 113, Jayalanda Mahagalkadawala, Galgamuwa.

(3) Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena presented —

- (i) a petition dated 30.07.2021 from Mr. A. G. Steven of No. B1/4/1, Steaurt Street, Colombo 02; and
- (ii) a petition dated 27.07.2021 from Mr. S. Arun Ajay of No. 33/4, Station Lane, Colombo 02.

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

The Minister of Education moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.29 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Hon. Vadivel Suresh seconded by Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

Suspension of Sittings

At 1.59 p.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 2.32 p.m.

At 2.32 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed.

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.32 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

5. Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Trade presented,—“Bill to amend the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund Act, No. 66 of 1981.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Monday, November 15, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

6. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.27 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 09, 2021.