



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 105.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, November 10, 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. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

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. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon, Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

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

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

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. (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. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa**, State Minister of Urban Development, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
- Hon. Sisira Jayakody**, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health
- 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 Coast Conservation & Low-Lying Lands Development
- Hon. Sanath Nishantha**, State Minister of Rural and Divisional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development
- 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. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas and Bhikkhu Education
- Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe**, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government
- 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. 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. 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
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- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha 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. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
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. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
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. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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 Maharroof

Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff

Hon. Mohomad Muzammil

Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa

Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara

Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka

Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka

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. 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. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Urban Development Authority for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development & Housing.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Christian Religious Affairs for the year 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Labour presented the Annual Reports of the Employees' Provident Fund for the years 2018 and 2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Co-operative Development—Polgolla for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the Department of Official Languages for the year 2020.

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

(6) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Reports of the National Youth Corps for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Youth Services Council for the year 2018

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth & Sports.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Minimum Retirement Age of Workers Bill; and
- (ii) Termination of Employment of Workmen (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Bill

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. S. M. Chandrasena presented —

- (i) a petition dated 15.07.2021 from Mr. A. A. K. E. Wijesinghe of No. 419/02/45, Daladapura, Thalawa; and
- (ii) a petition dated 24.04.2021 from Mr. H. Muthuwa of Kiwlekada, Thanthirimale.

(2) Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka presented a petition dated 16.03.2021 from Ms. K. K. Piyawathie of Kasthurige Watta, Udupila, Mirissa.

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

4. Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice presented,—“Bill to provide for the implementation of the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their destruction; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice.

5. Judicature (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice presented,—“Bill to amend the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice.

6. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 4 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day’s sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Buddhika Pathirana seconded by Hon. Waruna Liyanage moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Sahana Community Development Foundation.”

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 the Minister of Health for report.

8. Appropriation (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Ports & Shipping on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.45 a.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella seconded by Hon. Mujibur Rahuman moved,— That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The 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 moved,—That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.32 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.33 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 4.02 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education 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 Education moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

9. Immigrants and Emigrants (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Ports & Shipping on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Policies & Plan Implementation, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs 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 Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

10. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act : The Minister of Ports & Shipping on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That 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, which were presented on 21.10.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Ports & Shipping on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Policies & Plan Implementation, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the 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, which was presented on 08.11.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Adjournment (Development of Kuliyaipitiya Hospital as a Fully-equipped Teaching Hospital) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Public Security moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.28 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

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

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, November 11, 2021.