



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 106.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson 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. 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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

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

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

Hon. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

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. (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. (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. Piyanakara Jayaratne**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification
- Hon. Jeevan Thondaman**, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure
- 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. Tharaka Balasuriya**, State Minister of Regional Co-operation
- 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. Kanchana Wijsekera**, 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

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kapila 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. Faizal Cassim

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella

Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
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. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Uddika Premarathne

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma 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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa

Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara

Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka

Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka

Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka

Hon. Ishak Rahuman

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse

Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe

Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan

Hon. M. Rameshwaran

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha 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 Trade presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation Ltd for the year 2018/2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the Geological Survey & Mines Bureau for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. S. M. Chandrasena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Lands presented the Report of the said Committee on Regulations under the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera presented a petition dated 03.08.2021 from Mr. Ajith Quinton Lamahewa of No. 53/64, “Hiru Wimana”, Batelanda Road, Hirana, Panadura.
- (2) Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara presented a petition dated 10.10.2021 from Mr. P. M. Nandana Samansiri of No. 30/A, Bolgalle Gedara Watta, Gonathalawa Junction, Dambagalle.
- (3) Hon. Milan Jayathilake presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 09.10.2021 from Mr. A. T. P. K. De Silva of No. 58/3/7/A, Indigolla, Gampaha; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 12.10.2021 from Mrs. M. A. H. Madhushika Kumari of No. 82, Kalalpitiya, Pasyala.

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

4. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 2.00 p.m. on Friday, November 12th, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Minimum Retirement Age of Workers Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

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

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.00 noon Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

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

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe seconded by Hon. Vadivel Suresh moved,— That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.27 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.13 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 4.07 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Labour 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 and 2 were agreed to.

Clause 3

The Minister of Labour proposed an amendment to leave out lines 1 and 2, in page 2 and substitute the following:—

- “(a) where any registered medical practitioner registered under the Medical Ordinance (Chapter 105) has certified that a worker is permanently incapacitate of engaging in work due to some sickness;
- (b) where the service of a worker has been terminated as a result of any disciplinary inquiry and the decision of such termination has not been revised by law;”;

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 4 to 17 were agreed to.

Clause 18

The Minister of Labour proposed an amendment to leave out line 24, in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“unincorporated, but does not include the state or Government or any such”;

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

The Minister of Labour proposed another amendment to leave out lines 29 and 30, in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“employment of a worker not in excess of hundred and eighty days in any one calendar year;”;

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

The Minister of Labour proposed another amendment to leave out line 11, in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“employment for more than twelve calendar months,”;

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

The Minister of Labour proposed another amendment to leave out line 21, in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“period of hundred and eighty days, and does not include a”;

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 19 was agreed to.

Schedule I was agreed to.

Schedule II

The Minister of Labour proposed an amendment to leave out item 1, in page 14 and substitute the following,—

“Any worker in the public sector”;

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

The Minister of Labour proposed another amendment to leave out item 7, in page 15.

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

Question that the Schedule as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and 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 Labour 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.

6. Termination of Employment of Workmen (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Order under the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children

Act : The Minister of Labour moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Labour under Section 31, read with Section 20A of the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, No. 47 of 1956, which was presented on 04.10.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Land Acquisition Act : The Minister of Lands moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Lands under Section 63(2)(f) of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2244/13 of 08th September 2021, which were presented on 08.10.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Complaints Made to Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Regarding Frauds during Good Governance Government) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.34 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

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

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 2.00 p.m. on Friday, November 12, 2021 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.