



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 125.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Saturday, December 04, 2021 at 9.30 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. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Education and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade

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. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

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. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Transport

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. 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. 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. Duminda Dissanayake**, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects 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. (Dr.) 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. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion
- Hon. Lohan Ratwatte**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries
- Hon. Nimal Lanza**, State Minister of Rural Roads and other Infrastructure
- Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera**, 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

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
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 Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
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. Ashoka Priyantha
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. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne

Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
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. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2256/10 of 29th November 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 Proclamation do lie upon the **Table**.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the National Institute of Education for the years 2017 and 2018 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Report on Establishment of Committees for the Inspection of Driving Schools in Sri Lanka.

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

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the National Lotteries Board for the year 2019;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd. for the year 2019; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Social Development for the year 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the Government Analyst's Department for the year 2020.

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

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Shehan Semasinghe presented —

- (i) a petition dated 22.10.2021 from Mr. K. Abeywickrama of No. 03, Dayagama, Walagambahuwa, Maradankadawala;
- (ii) a petition dated 13.08.2021 from Mr. M. A. Wijesinghe of Dosthara Watta, 5 - Ela, Shrawasthipura; and
- (iii) a petition dated 21.10.2021 from Mr. W. T. B. S. J. Senevirathne of New Road, Galkulama, Anuradhapura.

(2) Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene presented a petition dated 22.09.2021 from Mr. P. P. N. Chandrathilaka of Mugurugampola, Meerigama.

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

3. Appropriation Bill — (Eighteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 117

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Kabir Hashim proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.50 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe seconded by Hon. Abdul Haleem moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.00 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 2.50 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

(At 3.21 p.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna took the Chair.)

(At 3.33 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

(At 4.29 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Highways

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 16 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 270,000,000,000”

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

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

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 191,200,000 for Head 117, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 8,300,000 for Head 117, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 11 in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“ Programme 02 Development Activities — 269,991,700,000”

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

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

Head 435

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 76,000,000 for Head 435, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,000,000 for Head 435, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 9,996,000,000 for Head 435, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Transport

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 5 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 16,540,000,000”

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

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

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 291,000,000 for Head 114, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 27,300,000 for Head 114, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“ Programme 02 Development Activities 650,000,000 5,550,000,000”

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

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

Head 306

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 15,748,950,000 for Head 306, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,962,700,000 for Head 306, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 436

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 120,050,000 for Head 436, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,000,000 for Head 436, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 7,210,000,000 for Head 436, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,906,000,000 for Head 436, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 307

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,885,000,000 for Head 307, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,090,000,000 for Head 307, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 193

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 626,000,000 for Head 193, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 93,000,000 for Head 193, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 129,000,000 for Head 193, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 18,000,000 for Head 193, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 221

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,342,000,000 for Head 221, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 443,000,000 for Head 221, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,036,000,000 for Head 221, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 246,000,000 for Head 221, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 412

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 685,000,000 for Head 412, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 200,000,000 for Head 412, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 5.00 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Monday, December 06, 2021.

4. Annual Report of the National Transport Commission (2016) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Transport moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Transport Commission for the year 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 19.06.2019 under Section 14(2)(C) of Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Annual Report of the Employees' Provident Fund (2016) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Labour moved,— That the Annual Report of the Employees' Provident Fund for the year 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 05.02.2019 under Section 6(3)(4) of Employees' Provident Fund Act, No.15 of 1958, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (2013) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Labour moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for the year 2013 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2013 and presented on 05.10.2016 under Section 18 of National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Act, No. 38 of 2009, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (2016) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Labour moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for the year 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 10.01.2019 under Section 18 of National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Act, No. 38 of 2009, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (2017) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Labour moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 08.08.2019 under Section 18 of National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Act, No. 38 of 2009, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Minimization of Time Span for Earning a Degree) : The Ministry of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.37 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member, without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Monday, December 06, 2021 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 20th November 2021.