



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 127.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, December 07, 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

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. 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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

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

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

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. (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. 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. (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. Jeevan Thondaman, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure

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. 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. (Dr.) 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. 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. 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 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. 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. 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. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh 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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
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. Asanka Navarathna

Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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 : The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Uva Wellssa University for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka for the year 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera presented a petition dated 15.10.2021 from Mr. A. M. Somasiri of No. 59, Pallegama, Serankada, Padiyathalawa.
- (2) Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 02.08.2021 from Mr. Nevil Dilip Kumara Kahatapitiya of No. 90/1, Uyanwaththa, Warakagoda, Neboda; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 14.11.2021 from Mr. Subramaniam Yasodha of Near the Highway Authority Work Unit, Bellapitiya, Horana.
- (3) Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara presented a petition dated 21.07.2021 from Mr. R. P. S. Rajapaksha of No. 24, Punchibogahapitiya, Kengalla.

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

3. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 2 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.

4. Appropriation Bill — (Twentieth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Ministry of Environment

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 16 in page 41 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 2,475,000,000”

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 160

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 373,500,000 for Head 160, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 6,900,000 for Head 160, 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 20 in page 41 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 750,000,000 2,468,100,000”

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.

(At 11.29 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Ministry of Wildlife & Forest Conservation

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 42 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 3,075,000,000”

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 161

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 207,000,000 for Head 161, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 6,000,000 for Head 161, 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 7 in page 42 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities — 3,069,000,000”

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.

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 2.28 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

State Ministry of Wildlife Protection, Adoption of Safety Measures including the Construction of Electrical Fences and Trenches and Reforestation and Forest Resource Development

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 12 in page 42 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 2,700,000,000”

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 424

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 17 in page 42 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 01 Development Activities 76,000,000 1,006,000,000”

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 283

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,486,000,000 for Head 283, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 866,000,000 for Head 283, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 284

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,862,000,000 for Head 284, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 593,000,000 for Head 284, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 294

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 527,000,000 for Head 294, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 235,000,000 for Head 294, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Fisheries

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out line 23 in page 39 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 1,300,000,000”

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 151

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 231,450,000 for Head 151, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 98,000,000 for Head 151, 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 4 in page 40 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities — 1,176,200,000”

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 290

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 640,450,000 for Head 290, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 25,800,000 for Head 290, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 405

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 61,450,000 for Head 405, 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 405, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,395,000,000 for Head 405, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 371,000,000 for Head 405, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 5.25 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Wednesday, December 08, 2021.

5. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Education 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 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, which was presented on 04.12.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation moved,— That the Order made by the State Minister of Wildlife Protection, Adoption of Safety Measures including the Construction of Electrical Fences and Trenches and Reforestation and Forest Resource Development under Section 2(2) of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2222/62 of 09th April 2021, which was presented on 07.10.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development under Section 61(1)(sa) and (sb) of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2126/6 of 03rd June 2019, which were presented on 22.10.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Fisheries under Section 61(1)(u) of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2218/64 of 12th March 2021, which were presented on 22.10.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Promulgation of Laws for Cultivating Cannabis as a Herbal and Export Crop) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.59 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 08, 2021 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 20th November 2021.