



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 117.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, November 25, 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. 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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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

- 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. (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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Shehan Semasinghe**, State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self Employment and Business Development
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- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Kapila Athukorala**
- Hon. Sampath Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya**
- 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. Selvarajah Kajendren**
- Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka**
- Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam**
- Hon. Faizal Cassim**
- Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda**
- Hon. Lakshman Kiriella**
- Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda**
- Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga**
- Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe**
- Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri**
- Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar**
- Hon. Velu Kumar**

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
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. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
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. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma 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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
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.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
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. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
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. 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 Highways presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products for the year 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 24.09.2021 to 17.11.2021 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 7 of 2020.

Ordered that the said Note on Supplementary Allocations do lie upon the **Table**.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the National Policy on Waste Management of the Ministry of Environment.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Botanic Gardens for the year 2020.

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

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya presented —

- (i) a petition dated 08.10.2021 from Mr. A. G. Thilakarathne of Walwwatte, Alupotha, Ussapitiya; and
- (ii) a petition dated 02.10.2021 from Mr. B. R. C. Bandara of No. A1/155, Maththamagoda, Kannaththota.

(2) Hon. Sisira Jayakody presented a petition dated 30.09.2021 from Mr. K. P. S. Pathirana of No. 541, Jayanadapura, Akuregoda, Thalangama South.

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

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 112

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.25 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 1.59 p.m. Hon. Isuru Dodangoda took the Chair.)

(At 3.10 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Foreign Ministry

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance proposed an amendment to leave out lines 12 and 13 in page 22 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent 12,726,350,000

Capital 463,000,000”

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. 52,400,000 for Head 112, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,450,000 for Head 112, 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 17 in page 22 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 12,673,950,000 460,550,000”

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 419

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 113,200,000 for Head 419, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 7,000,000 for Head 419, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 105

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 248,915,000 for Head 105, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 572,100,000 for Head 105, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 66,450,000 for Head 105, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 125,250,000 for Head 105, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 210

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 297,665,000 for Head 210, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 94,379,000 for Head 210, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 211

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,160,080,000 for Head 211, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 288,300,000 for Head 211, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 308

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 14,850,950,000 for Head 308, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 591,971,000 for Head 308, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 5.06 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Friday, November 26, 2021.

4. Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (2013 and 2014) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the years 2013 and 2014 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the years ended 31.12.2013 and 31.12.2014 and presented on 09.03.2019 under Section 14(3) of Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (2015) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the year 2015 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2015 and presented on 10.10.2018 under Section 14(3) of Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Annual Report of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. (2016) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Report of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. for the year 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 06.06.2019 under Section 14(3) of Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (2015) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Report and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for the year 2015 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2015 and presented on 21.02.2019 under Section 14(3) of Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Annual Report of the Selacine Rupavahini Institute (2016) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Report of the Selacine Rupavahini Institute for the year 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 22.02.2019 under Section 14(3) of Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Income Generation through Proper Use of Railway Service) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry and State Minister of Community Police Services moved,—That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.14 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.40 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 Friday, November 26, 2021 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 20th November 2021.