



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 2.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 1.00 p.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. 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. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

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. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Power

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. 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. 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. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**, State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control
- Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya**, State Minister of Regional Co-operation
- Hon. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas and Bhikkhu Education
- 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. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandary & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation
- Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera**, State Minister of Warehouse Facilities, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats and Shipping Industry 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. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh 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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Niroschan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith 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. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/1/12/7

December 29, 2021

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,

Gotabaya Rajapaksa

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Leader of the House, Chief Whips of both the Government and the Opposition, Hon. Ministers and Hon. Members of Parliament, first, let me wish you all a happy, healthy and a productive New Year!

As you all know, last year was a very challenging and a stressful year for all of us. The House was not spared from the COVID-19 disruption that engulfed the whole world. Despite that, we managed to conduct Sessions on matters of importance to the country and pass the Budget for 2022, keeping in line with our responsibilities.

I would like to place on record my heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all the Members of Parliament, all the staff led by the Secretary-General of Parliament, Sergeant-at-Arms, security forces, health authorities and all others who made smooth functioning of Parliament possible during those times.

The year 2022 marks a new beginning and I feel it is appropriate for this House to also make note of it and change some of the things for its betterment.

Once you cross the Bar of the House, you all are considered as Hon. Members of Parliament. That honourable title demands that you speak and behave accordingly, in a respectable manner, which in turn reflect upon the House. That is how I learnt when I entered Parliament. When I first spoke in Parliament, it was after weeks of preparation, reading in the Library and watching and listening to speakers such as the late Hon. Gamini Dissanayake, the Hon. Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Hon. Lalith Athulath Mudali et cetera. As new Members, we wanted to give the best impression of ourselves to the House because it would have been a great shame to do otherwise. But today, a very few Hon. Members prepare for their speeches in advance, use the Library or speak facts. According to the information furnished by the Library, only 330 books had been borrowed by Hon. Members during the year 2021 and 122 of those had been under the title ‘fiction’. Ninety four of the borrowed books had been on political science and 27 on sociology.

Only 11 books on economics, five books on science, four books on law, three books on technology, one book on education and one book on Sinhala literature had been borrowed by Hon. Members.

For a House of 225 Members, this is embarrassing. This lack of preparation and knowledge on subject matters have led to insults, lies and false allegations with unparliamentary language being part of the speeches and most of the speeches and statements being made to gain political mileage rather than guiding the State. This finally escalates to shameful, unparliamentary conduct.

As the Speaker, it is my responsibility to conduct the House productively and to ensure the rights of all Hon. Members. The House, its Standing Orders and other procedures are designed to facilitate that, taking for granted that its Members will conduct themselves honourably.

All Hon. Members must understand that upholding the dignity of this institution is the most sacred duty of all of us. If people lose faith in this House, that means that they lose faith in democracy. The repercussions of that will be grave for all political parties and citizens of this country. I urge all of you to understand that and have national interest and the interests of all you represent at heart in all matters, putting aside petty political drama inside the House. People of this country are facing grave difficulties and they expect both the Government and the Opposition Members to act responsibly like statesmen and stateswomen.

I earnestly request all of you to help me rebuild the image of this institution and discuss with me how we can achieve that. I expect both Chief Whips especially to act more responsibly and guide their respective sides.

I have drafted the following proposals to improve the quality of the debates and the conduct of Hon. Members, and are for discussion and adoption:

An Independent Research Analysis Office especially tasked with giving the Hon. Members an independent view on the Budget and performances;

Discussions and presentations by sector experts on topics such as economics, technology, management, leadership, sociology and any other related topic which any Hon. Member can request to be held during evenings after Parliamentary Sittings conclude; and

Language and education facilities for Hon. Members who wish to master different languages or pursue education.

I invite all the Hon. Members to put forward any improvements or corrections to these proposals and to propose better ones to ensure better functioning of the honourable Parliament.”

II

“I wish to inform that under the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled “Appropriation” on 10th December 2021.”

III

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have nominated the following Members of Parliament to serve in the Panel of Chairs for the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament, in terms of Standing Order 140 of the Parliament:—

Hon. Shantha Bandara

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

Hon. Hesha Withanage

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Ninth Instalment – Part XIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;
- (ii) Ninth Instalment – Part XXIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (iii) Second Instalment – Part XXVIII and Ninth Instalment – Part XXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019; and
- (iv) Second Instalment – Parts VI and VII, Third Instalment – Parts IV and V and Ninth Instalment – Part I of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Army for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Navy for the year 2020

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

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 and Section 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the Departments of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2164/53 of 27th February 2020.

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

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Department of Samurdhi Development for the year 2020.

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

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Rural and School Sports Infrastructure Improvement for the year 2020.

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

(6) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Justice for the year 2020.

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

4. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.. At 1.00 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, from 20th January 2022, the hours of sittings of Parliament on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament shall be 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 4.30 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Business of the Parliament (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 to 9 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. Committee of Selection (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 114 of the Parliament, the Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and twelve (12) Members which shall include the Leaders of political parties or their nominees to be nominated by Parliament to serve during the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Committee of Selection (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament this day, the undermentioned twelve (12) Members do serve in the Committee of Selection during the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament:—

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena

Hon. Johnston Fernando

Hon. Douglas Devananda

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Business of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Orders 50(2) and 111 of the Parliament, Standing Orders 50(2) and 111 of the Parliament shall be suspended with effect from 19th January 2022, until the Members are nominated to Sectoral Oversight Committees.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Committee on Public Finance : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 121(1) of the Parliament, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance shall be elected by the Committee among its Members.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on this day, the hours of sitting of Parliament on Thursday, January 20th, 2022 shall be 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.. At 10.00 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 4) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, January 20th, 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Privilege : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella seconded by Hon. Niroshan Perera moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, M.P. on 21st October, 2021 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Adjournment (Policy Statement Made by His Excellency the President at the Inauguration of the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Trade moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.23 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan took the Chair.)

And it being 6.00 p.m. debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Thursday, January 20, 2022.

And it being 6.00 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2022 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.