



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 3.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, January 20, 2022 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. 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. 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. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

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. (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. 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. 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. Piyanaka 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. 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. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**, State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control
- 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. 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. 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. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**
- 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. Lalith Varna Kumara**
- 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. (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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
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. Asanka Navarathna
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. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Kumara Welgama
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Order made by the Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2254/2 of 15th November 2021 and moved that the Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Recommendations to H. E. the President by the Finance Commission in terms of the Article 154R. (4) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the years 2020 and 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Public Trustee for the year 2020; and

- (iii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs for the year 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Reports of the National Child Protection Authority for the years 2016 and 2017; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the University Grants Commission for the year 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the Food Commissioner's Department for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Co-operative Employees Commission for the year 2020.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Textile Industry for the year 2020.

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

(7) The Minister of Highways presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2256/23 of 30th November 2021 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Paddy Marketing Board for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy for the year 2019; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Lanka Phosphate Ltd for the year 2019/20

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Highways presented the Order made by the Minister of Agriculture under Section 2 of the Felling of Trees (Control) Act (Chapter 452) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2232/33 of 18th June 2021 and moved that the Order be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Energy presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Energy under Section 48 read with Sections 5(3)(b) and 30(3) of the Petroleum Resources Act, No. 21 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2249/32 of 15th October 2021 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2018;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Coconut Development Authority for the year 2019;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Coconut Cultivation Board for the year 2019;
- (iv) Regulations made by the Minister of Plantation under Section 9 read with Section 2(4),(6) of the Licensing of Produce Brokers Act, No. 9 of 1979 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2222/44 of 08th April 2021; and
- (v) Regulations made by the Minister of Plantation under Section 8 of the Rubber Replanting Subsidy Act (Chapter 437) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2241/36 of 18th August 2021

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Reports of the National Youth Services Council for the years 2015 and 2016; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Anti—Doping Agency for the year 2019

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth & Sports.

Question put, and agreed to.

(13) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Reports of the Department of Manpower and Employment for the years 2019 and 2020.

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

2. Personal Data Protection : 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 presented,—“Bill to provide for the regulation of processing of Personal Data; to identify and strengthen the rights of Data subjects in relation to the protection of Personal Data; to provide for the designation of the Data Protection Authority; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, February 08, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology.

3. Fauna and Flora Protection (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation presented,—“Bill to amend the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, February 08, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife & Forest Conservation.

4. Special Goods and Services Tax : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance presented,—“Bill to provide for the imposition of a special goods and services tax, in lieu of the sums chargeable on such specified goods and services by way of tax, duty, levy, cess or any other charge imposed by law; to promote self-compliance in the payment of taxes in order to ensure greater efficiency in relation to the collection and administration of such taxes by avoiding the complexities associated with the application and administration of a multiple tax regime on specified goods and services; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, February 08, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

5. Value Added Tax (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance presented,—“Bill to amend the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, February 08, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

6. Committee on Parliamentary Business : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 115 of the Parliament, the Committee on Parliamentary Business shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip and twenty one (21) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Committee on Public Finance : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 121 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Finance shall consist of twenty one (21) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

With the leave of the House, the following announcement was made by the Speaker:—

Committee on Parliamentary Business :

“I wish to inform that, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 115 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament this day, the following Members have been nominated with the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip and the Chief Opposition Whip by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Parliamentary Business:—

The Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
The Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
The Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
The Hon. Douglas Devananda
The Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
The Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
The Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa
The Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
The Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
The Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
The Hon. M. U. M. Ali Sabry
The Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
The Hon. Rauff Hakeem
The Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
The Hon. Dilan Perera
The Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
The Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
The Hon. Mano Ganesan
The Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
The Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran”

8. 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.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (19th January 2022).

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

The Minister of Water Supply moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.47 a.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

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

Hon. Shantha Bandara seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.39 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

And it being 6.00 p.m. debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Friday, January 21, 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 Friday, January 21, 2022.