



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 50.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 10.00 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 Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign 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. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation

Hon. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Justice

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection

Hon. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms

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. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana**, State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals
- Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva**, State Minister of Production and Supply of Fertilizer and Regulation of Chemical Fertilizer and Insecticide Use
- 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. 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. Roshan Ranasinghe**, State Minister of Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development
- Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa**, State Minister of Paddy and Grains, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promotion, 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. 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

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda

Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
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. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri

Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana

Hon. Madhura Withanage

Hon. Hesha Withanage

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe PC

Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. John Seneviratne

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Kabir Hashim

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

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 Speaker tabled the Annual Work Programme of the National Audit Office for the year 2021 in terms of Section 35(3) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 which was submitted to me by the Auditor-General under Section 35(1) of the said Act.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the National Police Commission for the year 2019; and

- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the National Physical Planning Department for the year 2019

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

(3) The Minister of Labour presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Labour under Section 46 read with Section 8 of the Employees Provident Fund Act, No. 15 of 1958 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2209/41 of 06th January 2021 and moved that those Regulations to be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Foreign 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 Parliament of Sri Lanka 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.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) 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 establishment of Departments of the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2163/21 of 19th February 2020;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of The Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/12 of 28th October 2020; and
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 20(4)(b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, with regard to the appointment of Dr. Chamindalal Sujeewa Lewangamage as the Competent Authority in lieu of the Director of the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa, with effect from October 01, 2020 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2195/36 of 30th September 2020

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

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Fisheries Sector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development for the year 2019.

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

(7) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Public Security presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Civil Security for the year 2019.

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

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana presented a petition dated 06.09.2020 from Mrs. H. L. Kalyani De Silva of No. 3029, 3rd Step, Anuradhapura.
- (2) Hon. Anura Dissanayaka presented a petition dated 26.11.2020 from Mrs. D. Lakshmi Dasanayaka of No. 656/28, Isurusiri Gardens, Thunandahena, Korathota, Kaduwela.
- (3) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 22.09.2020 from Mr. K. G. Rajasinghe of 12th Lane, Reglan watta, Boyagane; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 16.11.2020 from Mr. L. P. Karunaratna of No. 145, Pushparama Mawatha, Pahala Biyanwala, Kadawatha.

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

3. Sittings of the Parliament (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06th October 2020, the hours of Sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.. At 11.00 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 4.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Sittings of the Parliament (No.2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 09th February, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Leave to introduce Bill (No.1) : Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura seconded by Hon. Amaraakeerthi Athukorala moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill :—

“Bill to incorporate the Rathanatissa Peace Foundation.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Education for report.

6. Leave to introduce Bill (No.2) : Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena seconded by Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill :—

“Bill to incorporate the Sri Shakyasinharama Viharastha Karyasadhaka Sanvidanaya.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs for report.

7. Adjournment (Confusion Created by Government Gazettes, Circulars and Announcements) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 12.30 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.50 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign moved,—That Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.49 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.38 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being 4.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 09, 2021 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.