



*(Ninth Parliament - First Session)*

No. 49.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, January 19, 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

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**Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera**, Minister of Environment

**Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma**, Minister of Power

**Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage**, Minister of Agriculture

**Hon. Udaya Gammanpila**, Minister of Energy

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

**Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga**, Minister of Tourism

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

**Hon. Gamini Lokuge**, Minister of Transport

**Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi**, Minister of Health

**Hon. Wimal Weerawansa**, Minister of Industries

**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. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa**, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
- Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne**, State Minister of Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation Development related to Rural Paddy Fields
- Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification
- Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development
- Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**, State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control
- 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. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion
- Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe**, State Minister of Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development
- Hon. Lohan Ratwatte**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries and State Minister of Prison Management & Prisoners' Rehabilitation
- 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. Janaka Wakkumbura**, State Minister of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export 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
- Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Material Industries
- Hon. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries

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**Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**

**Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala**

**Hon. Sampath Athukorala**

**Hon. Tissa Attanayake**

**Hon. Hector Appuhamy**  
**Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**  
**Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**  
**Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**  
**Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**  
**Hon. M. Udayakumar**  
**Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**  
**Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda**  
**Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren**  
**Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka**  
**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. Velu Kumar**  
**Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku**  
**Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda**  
**Hon. Mano Ganesan**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi**  
**Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena**  
**Hon. Milan Jayathilake**  
**Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana**  
**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. 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. Gayashan Nawananda**  
**Hon. Asanka Navarathna**  
**Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara**  
**Hon. Kins Nelson**  
**Hon. Buddhika Pathirana**  
**Hon. Anupa Pasqual**  
**Hon. Dilan Perera**  
**Hon. Niroschan Perera**  
**Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera**  
**Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam**  
**Hon. Nalin Fernando**  
**Hon. Harin Fernando**  
**Hon. Ashoka Priyantha**  
**Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament**  
**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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa**  
**Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara**  
**Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka**  
**Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara**  
**Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero**  
**Hon. Ishak Rahuman**

**Hon. Mujibur Rahuman**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Ajith Rajapakse**  
**Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam**  
**Hon. Gamini Waleboda**  
**Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**  
**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. Dilip Wedaarachchi**  
**Hon. Kumara Welgama**  
**Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan**  
**Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe**  
**Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena**  
**Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran**  
**Hon. Vadivel Suresh**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne**  
**Hon. Kabir Hashim**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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. Announcements by the Speaker :** The Speaker made the following announcements:—

**I**

“I wish to inform that I have under the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, endorsed the certificate on the following Bills on 18 January 2021:—

- (i) Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) (Amendment);
- (ii) Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children (Amendment);
- (iii) Minimum Wages (Indian Labour) (Amendment);
- (iv) Factories (Amendment);
- (v) Penal Code (Amendment);
- (vi) Evidence (Amendment);
- (vii) Bail (Amendment); and
- (viii) Intellectual Property (Amendment).”

**II**

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Kumara Welgama, Member of Parliament, and the Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Member of Parliament, have been nominated by the Committee of Selection on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, in terms of provisions of Standing Order 127(3) of the Parliament to serve in the Committee on Public Finance to fill the vacancies created due to the resignation of the Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, Member of Parliament and the Hon. Hesha Withanage, Member of Parliament.”

**2. Presentation of Papers :** The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Reports and Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence.

Question put, and agreed to.

**3. Presentation of Public Petitions :**

- (1) Hon. Chandima Weerakkody presented a petition dated 29.11.2020 from Mr. M. E. Mendis of No. 306/36, Colombo Road, Dadalla, Galle.
- (2) Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda presented a petition dated 23.12.2020 from Mr. B. K. A. Premalal of No. 428/1, Pitakotte, Kotte.
- (3) Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva presented a petition dated 05.10.2020 from Mrs. Lalitha de Silva Galappaththi of No.16/1, Wadumulla,, Wathugedara, Ambalangoda.

- (4) Hon. Madhura Withanage presented a petition dated 19.10.2020 from Mr. B. G. Laksiri of No. 356/3/C, Weththewa Watta, Gelioya.

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

**4. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 1) :** The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2188/50 of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020, which was presented on 05.01.2021, be approved.

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

The Minister of Tourism moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.28 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and Covid Disease Control moved,—That Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.30 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

(At 4.23 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

**5. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 2) :** The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2189/39 of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, which was presented on 05.01.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**6. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 3) :** The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2191/26 of 03<sup>rd</sup> September 2020, which was presented on 05.01.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**7. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 4) :** The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2195/29 of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, which was presented on 05.01.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**8. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 5) :** The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2197/12 of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020, which was presented on 05.01.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**9. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 6) :** The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/1 of 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020, which was presented on 05.01.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**10. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance :** The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 05.01.2021, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2194/5 of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020)

Question put, and agreed to.

**11. Adjournment :** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.35 p.m. adjourned until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.