



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 46.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 06, 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 Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, 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. 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. 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. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education

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

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media

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

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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

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. 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. 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. Jeevan Thondaman, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure

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. 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. 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. 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. Jayantha Samaraweera**, State Minister of Warehouse Facilities, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats and Shipping Industry Development
- 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. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- 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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Tiran Alles**
- Hon. Naseer Ahamed**
- Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Jagath 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. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
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. M. S. Thowfeek
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. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
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. Harin Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma 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. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
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. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha 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 Minister of Highways presented the Report of the Auditor General on the Account of the National Defence Fund for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Air Force for the year 2018;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2019;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Judicial Service Commission for the year 2019;
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department for the year 2019; and
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Buddhist Affairs for the year 2019

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

(3) The Minister of Transport presented the Performance Report of the Department of Motor Traffic for the year 2019.

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

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the year 2019.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Textile Industry for the year 2019.

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

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Tourism presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Botanic Gardens for the year 2019.

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

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Orders under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011;
- (ii) Orders under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989;
- (iii) Order under Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003;
- (iv) Notification and Orders under the Strategic Development Projects Act, No.14 of 2008;
- (v) Orders under the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007; and
- (vi) Resolution under the Revenue Protection Act, No. 19 of 1962

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice presented the Report of the said Committee on the Amendment Bills entitled —

- (i) Penal Code;
- (ii) Evidence; and
- (iii) Bail

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Susil Premajayantha presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 24.11.2020 from Mr. M. J. Sirisoma of No. 35/64 C, Devala Road, Katubedda, Moratuwa; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 02.12.2020 from Mrs. V. H. S. Geethani Perera of No. 552/B, Guru Gedara Mawatha, Thalangama North, Battaramulla.
- (2) Hon. Duminda Dissanayake presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 09.09.2020 from Mr. B. S. Chandrasiri Perera of No. 58, Parana Kand Watta, Wattala; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 05.09.2020 from Mr. K. Kusal Dayarathna of No. 69/3, Court Road, Kekirawa.
- (3) Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 24.08.2020 from Mr. D. J. S. F. Fernando of No. 1020, Aluthkuruwa, Pitipana, Negombo; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 17.09.2020 from Mr. G. M. Indika Godawela of No. 96/A, Palliyapitiya East, Dunagaha.
- (4) Hon. Vijitha Herath presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 19.10.2020 from Mr. D. H. Gamage of No. 67 B, Podujana Mawatha, Walana, Panadura; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 12.10.2020 from Mr. R. S. S. H. M. H. D. Herath of No. 46/2, Panawallanda, Pallewela.
- (5) Hon. Premalal Jayasekara presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 13.10.2020 from Mr. J. K. Victor of Acres 250, Karawita, Uda Karawita;
 - (ii) a petition dated 29.09.2020 from Mr. P. K. Jayasundara of Godakumbura - Endana, Kahawatte;
 - (iii) a petition dated 15.10.2020 from Mr. S. A. Weerawickrama of Kalawana Road, Pothupitiya;
 - (iv) a petition dated 29.09.2020 from Mr. U. D. Asanka Namal of No. 113/A, Dodampawatta, Nivithigala; and
 - (v) a petition dated 13.10.2020 from Mr. U. A. Wasantha Kumara of Panapitiya South, Kahawatta.
- (6) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 14.11.2020 from Mr. B. H. W. Silva of "Sampath", Pokunahena, Wewahamanduwa, Matara; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 25.08.2020 from Mr. Nimal Karunaratne of Kohilawatta, Hathamuna, Thihagoda.

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

4. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 4 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Penal Code (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.31 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.30 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 31 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

6. Evidence (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 26 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Bail (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

8. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/12 of 30th December 2020 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the president in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979, which was presented on 05.01.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Rejuvenation of Tourism Industry) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Highways moved,—That Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.51 p. m. Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.06 p.m. 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 Thursday, January 07, 2021.