



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 42.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, December 08, 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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. 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. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon, Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

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. C. B. Rathnayake, Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

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

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry

- 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. Ajith Nivard Cabraal**, State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms
- Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa**, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, 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. Dayasiri Jayasekara**, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products
- Hon. Jeevan Thondaman**, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure
- Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva**, State Minister of Women and Child Development, Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services
- Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva**, State Minister of Production and Supply of Fertilizer and Regulation of Chemical Fertilizer and Insecticide Use
- 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. 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. 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 Wijsekera**, 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. 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
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- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Kapila 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. Thisakutti Arachchi**
- Hon. M. Udayakumar**
- Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**

Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
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. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. 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. 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. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
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. 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. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka

Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
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. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. 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. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
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 Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.

1. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Deputy Chairperson of Committees presented the First Instalment – Parts VII, VIII and IX and Fourth Instalment – Parts I and III and Fifth Instalment – Part III and Sixth Instalment – Part II of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019 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 Deputy Chairperson of Committees presented the—

- (i) Eighth Instalment – Part XI of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation of the Performance of the Fallow Paddy Cultivation Programmes in Operation in the Western Province by the Department of Agrarian Development; and
- (ii) Eighth Instalment – Part XII of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Propensity to tend Education under the Art Stream and the Unemployment of Arts graduates

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.

(3) The Minister of Foreign presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Foreign presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Foreign presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka presented a petition dated 14.09.2020 from Mrs. N. W. A. Padmadaya of “Ethugala Niwasa”, Salawa, Kosgama.
- (2) Hon. Tissa Attanayake presented a petition dated 30.09.2020 from Mr. Dayaratna Nehinna of “Sevena”, Ovitigala, Mathugama.
- (3) Hon. Kumara Welgama presented a petition dated 29.09.2020 from Mr. G. L. Piyasena of Galketigahahena, Meegahathenna.
- (4) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 07.09.2020 from Mrs. A. Pushparani Perera of Silverdale Watta, Kekanadura;
 - (ii) a petition dated 02.09.2020 from Mr. A. K. P. Mahinda of No. 197, Lucasgoda, Thissamaharama;
 - (iii) a petition dated 15.09.2020 from Mr. M. M. Mohan Anthony of Pare Kade, Kottagoda;
 - (iv) a petition dated 15.09.2020 from Ms. P. L. P. Shasheena Cooray of No. 82/A, Samagi Mawatha, Bimbedda, Panadura;
 - (v) a petition dated 18.09.2020 from Mr. P. S. Yapa of “Manel”, Hingurupaththala, Yatiyana, Matara;
 - (vi) a petition dated 02.10.2020 from Mr. S. G. Suresh Nisansala of No. 36/19, 4th Cross Street, Walpala, Matara;
 - (vii) a petition dated 15.09.2020 from Mr. T. Karunaratne of Polpitiye Gedara, Meruppa, Denipitiya; and
 - (viii) a petition dated 20.08.2020 from Mr. W. R. Yasapala of Gomila, Mawarala.

- (5) Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala presented a petition dated 15.09.2020 from Mr. G. W. Lal Amarasiri of No. 22, Near the Public Market, Jayanthipura.
- (6) Hon. Lalith Ellawala presented a petition dated 15.10.2020 from Mrs. R. K. Ashoka Ranjani of No. 173, Bandaragama West, Bandaragama.
- (7) Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena presented a petition dated 28.08.2020 from Mr. Somadasa Liyanage of Pubuduwegagama, Handapanagala.
- (8) Hon. Asanka Navarathna presented a petition dated 12.10.2020 from Mr. E. M. Jayarathna of No. 86, Gangoda Road, Kurunegala.
- (9) Hon. Nimal Piyathissa presented a petition dated 21.09.2020 from Mrs. Anoma Senarath Polwatte of No. 12, Kurunegala Road, Nugawela.
- (10) Hon. Nimal Lanza presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 22.09.2020 from Ms. Isuri Amaya Weerasinghe of No. 252/2, Kimbulapitiya Road, Akkarapanaha, Negombo; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 13.10.2020 from Mr. K. G. M. Silva of No. 12 A, Meddegoda, Ganemulla.
- (11) Hon. Chandima Weerakkody presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 12.10.2020 from Mr. K. Lal Kumarasiri de Silva of Dombagaha Liyadda, Baddegama North, Baddegama; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 29.09.2020 from Mr. W. K. Sangadasa of No. 10/7, Alapalawa, Galle.

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

3. Appropriation (2021) Bill — (Eighteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.

Head 117

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.25 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

(At 2.10 p.m. Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala took the Chair.)

(At 3.01 p.m. Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera took the Chair.)

(At 4.00 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

(At 5.30 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

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 proposed an amendment to leave out line 18 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 349,999,590,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Question that the sum of Rs. 185,415,000 for Head 117, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,647,000 for Head 117, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out line 22 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities - 349,988,943,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 435

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 65,130,000 for Head 435, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,300,000 for Head 435, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 24,997,110,000 for Head 435, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 114

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 305,950,000 for Head 114, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 12,600,000 for Head 114, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 650,000,000 for Head 114, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 5,984,000,000 for Head 114, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 306

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 16,082,750,000 for Head 306, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 18,373,700,000 for Head 306, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 436

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 168,050,000 for Head 436, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 11,700,000 for Head 436, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 11,823,610,000 for Head 436, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,405,000,000 for Head 436, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 307

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,868,800,000 for Head 307, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,417,800,000 for Head 307, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.55 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Wednesday, December 09, 2020.

4. Adjournment (An Alternative Forest Cultivation for Pine) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Highways moved,— That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.56 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 7.26 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 09, 2020 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 20th November, 2020.