



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 51.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, February 09, 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. 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. 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. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

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

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. 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. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products

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. Duminda Dissanayake, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects 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. Susil Premajayantha, State Minister of Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion

- Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya**, State Minister of Regional Co-operation
- 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. Vidura Wikramanayaka**, State Minister of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion
- Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage**, State Minister of Rural and School Sports Infrastructure Improvement
- 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. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

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

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Tiran Alles
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. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
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. 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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara

Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
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. 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. 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. 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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna 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. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. (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. 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. Jayarathna 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. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/1/12/7

January 18, 2021

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,

Gotabaya Rajapaksa

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform that the Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana, Member of Parliament, has been nominated by the Committee of Selection on 18th 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 vacancy created due to the resignation of the Hon. Hesha Withanage, Member of Parliament.”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Third Instalment – Part XII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2015;
- (ii) Third Instalment – Part XIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;
- (iii) Second Instalment – Part XXX, Ninth Instalment – Part XXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018; and
- (iv) Second Instalment – Parts XI, XII, XIII and XIV, Third Instalment – Parts VII and VIII and Ninth Instalment – Parts V and VI 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 Speaker presented the—

- (i) Eighth Instalment – Part XVIII of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation on the Production, Operation and Sales Processes of the Tile Factories of the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation; and
- (ii) Eighth Instalment – Part XIX of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation of Performance of the Process of Establishment of New Export Processing Zones

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 Highways presented the Annual Report of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2212/58 of 30th January 2021 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.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 30.11.2020 to 18.12.2020 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 6 of 2020.

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

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) 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), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2189/4 of 17th August 2020;
- (ii) 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. 2189/5 of 17th August 2020;
- (iii) 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. 2193/9 of 15th September 2020; and
- (iv) 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), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2209/18 of 05th January 2021.

and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Highways presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 10A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to surcharge on the Customs Duty payable on imported goods and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2203/1 of 23rd November 2020.

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

(8) The Minister of Labour presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Trade presented the Annual Reports and Accounts of the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the years 2018 and 2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Trade presented the—

(i) Order made by the Minister of Trade under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/14 of 28th October 2020; and

(ii) Order made by the Minister of Trade under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/21 of 29th October 2020

and moved that those Orders be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Power presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Electricity Board for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Highways presented the—

(i) Annual Report of the National Crafts Council for the year 2018; and

(ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Industries and Supply Chain Management under Section 53 read with Section 15 of the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act, No. 50 of 1993, relating to Gem and Jewellery License Fee and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2165/2 of 2nd March 2020.

and moved that the Report and those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(13) The Minister of Tourism presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism.

Question put, and agreed to.

(14) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd for the year 2016/2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports & Shipping.

Question put, and agreed to.

(15) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute for the year 2016; and
- (ii) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Rehabilitation of Persons, Properties & Industries Authority for the year 2016

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(16) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the Legal Draftsman's Department for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Justice for the year 2019

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

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Regulations under the Employees Provident Fund Act, No. 15 of 1985; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Labour Studies for the year 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera presented a petition dated 08.10.2020 from Mr. Edwin Wijewickrema of 334 C, "Wijaya", Muruthawela Pahala, Walasmulla.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 20.08.2020 from Mr. D. G. Chandrasena of Ihala Mulana, Nabadawa, Yakkalamulla;
 - (ii) a petition dated 20.11.2020 from Mr. E. J. P. Dinesh Anjula of No. 158/1B, Muththettugewatta, Bope - Galle;
 - (iii) a petition dated 03.10.2020 from Mr. L. D. Wimalarathna of Polduwa, Mataramba, Unawatuna;
 - (iv) a petition dated 08.09.2020 from Mr. M. M. K. Sri Jayavilal of No. 113/74, Welikadamulla, Balapitiya; and
 - (v) a petition dated 27.11.2020 from Mr. S. L. Kalansooriya of No. 360/17, A.H.E. Fernando Mawatha, Dangedara, Galle.
- (3) Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 07.09.2020 from Mr. K. A. Thabrew of "Rangawila", Walinguruketiya Road, Ambagaha Junction, Uragsmanhandiya; and

- (ii) a petition dated 13.09.2020 from Ms. S. A. S. Pradeepika Surendra of “Pradeepika”, Hiriketiya Road, Dikwella.
- (4) Hon. Anura Dissanayaka presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 08.01.2021 from Mr. H. G. Gnanasiri of No. 84/4, Malwatta Road, Hokandara South, Hokandara;
 - (ii) a petition dated 24.11.2020 from Mr. M. C. Rathna Bandula Manawadu of Galle Waththa, Old Road, Galahitiya, Katharagama;
 - (iii) a petition dated 02.12.2020 from Mr. M. H. G. Perera and 15 others of No. 04, Sisil Uyana, Avila Road, Kaluthara South;
 - (iv) a petition dated 04.01.2021 from Mrs. S. M. N. Senanayake of No.16, 9th Lane, Jambugasmulla Mawatha, Nugegoda; and
 - (v) a petition dated 02.12.2020 from Mr. W. R. A. Silva of “Silva Rest”, Kalamulla, Kalutara.
- (5) Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 05.09.2020 from Mr. A. G. Wijerathna of No. 50/8,, Kirulagama, Palapathwala, Matale;
 - (ii) a petition dated 16.12.2020 from Mrs. B. G. Dinushika Rasangi of No. 102, Kanumulla, Ranamuregama, Laggala, Pallegama; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 12.11.2020 from Mr. R. M. Ranjith Bandara of No. 12/2A, Alupothuwala, Ukuwela, Matale.
- (6) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented a petition dated 20.08.2020 from Mr. Terance Priyantha Thirimanna of No. 131/14, Mudungoda, Gampaha.
- (7) Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon presented a petition dated 01.12.2020 from Mrs. P. W. Kusumawathie of Mawathapalla, Watapotha, Nivitigala.
- (8) Hon. H. Nandasena presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 27.12.2020 from Mr. D. V. M. Meegahapola of No. 08, Nagahaella Road, Mawilmada, Kandy; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 26.08.2020 from Mr. J. M. Ekanayake of Dumriya Mawatha, Hinguruwewa, Thalawa.
- (9) Hon. Nalin Fernando presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 14.01.2021 from Mr. P. D. T. Wasantha of Eastern Kaluwarippuwa, Katana; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 02.10.2020 from Mr. W. J. Chandana Perera of No. 290/2A, Pahala Karagahamuna, Ragama.
- (10) Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe presented a petition dated 19.12.2020 from Mr. J. D. Nandana Kusumsiri Aruna Shantha of No. B 81/01, Dunukewala, Hiriwadunna, Kegalle.

(11) Hon. D. Weerasingha presented a petition dated 18.10.2020 from Mr. I. Jagath Anurabandara of No. 7B 26, Ambagahawella, Paragahakele, Ampara.

(12) Hon. Samanpriya Herath presented a petition dated 16.12.2020 from Mr. W. P. Pemasiri Jayalath of Kandegedara, Waddegama-Wewagama, Kuluyapitiya.

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

6. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1) : Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero seconded by Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Marriages (General) Ordinance No. 19 of 1907.”

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 Defence for report.

7. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2) : Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero seconded by Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to repeal the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, No. 13 of 1951.”

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 Defence for report.

8. Regulations under the Employees Provident Fund Act : The Minister of Transport on behalf of the Minister of Labour moved,— That 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, which were presented on 20.01.2021, be approved.

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

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera seconded by Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.28 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Fixed Salary for Pre-school Wardens) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.37 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member, without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.