



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 52.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, February 10, 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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

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

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

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- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Sampath Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**
- Hon. M. Udayakumar**
- 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. (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. M. S. Thowfeek
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. 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. Niroschan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin 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. 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. 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. 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. (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. 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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that a motion may be moved to refer the question of privilege raised by the Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, MP, in Parliament on 28 November 2020 to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

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

- (i) Fourth Instalment – Part XIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018; and
- (ii) First Instalment – Parts XIV, XV and XVI, Fourth Instalment – Part VI, Fifth Instalment – Parts IV, V and VI, Sixth Instalment – Parts XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI 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 XX of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation on the Role to be played for Ensuring the Qualitative Improvement in the Foreign Employment Sector;
- (ii) Eighth Instalment – Part XXI of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation of the Performance on rendering Public Service in Compliance with the Citizen Charter by Divisional Secretariats under the Colombo District Secretariat;
- (iii) Eighth Instalment – Part XXII of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluating the Performance of the Thripasha Program; and
- (iv) Tenth Instalment – Part XX of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Special Summary Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements of the Agrarian Services Committees for the years ended as at 31 December 2016 and 2017

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—

- (i) Annual Report of the Shrama Vasana Fund for the year 2017; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon for the year 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Water Supply presented the Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the—

(i) Annual Report of the National Institute of Plantation Management for the year 2018; and

(ii) Annual Report of the Kurunegala Plantations Limited for the year 2018

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Tourism presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lankan Airlines for the year 2018/2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Justice presented the Recommendations of the Report of the Presidential Commission on the Edirisinghe Trust Investments Company Limited.

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

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

- (i) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (ii) Orders under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979;
- (iii) Report of the Auditor General on the Account of the National Defence Fund for the year 2016;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Development Lotteries Board for the year 2017;
- (v) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation for the year 2016;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2017;
- (vii) Annual Report of the Regional Development Bank for the year 2017;
- (viii) Annual Reports of the National Institute of Social Development for the years 2017 and 2018;
- (ix) Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon for the year 2018; and
- (x) Annual Report and the Accounts of the Sri Lanka Social Security Board for the year 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Premalal Jayasekara, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Regulations under the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act No.50 of 1993;
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Cement Corporation for the year 2016;
- (iii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mantai Salt Limited for the year 2015/ 2016;
- (iv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mantai Salt Limited for the year 2016/ 2017;
- (v) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2015;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel for the year 2017;
- (vii) Annual Report of the Industrial Development Board of Ceylon for the year 2018;
- (viii) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Gem and Jewellery Authority for the year 2018;
- (ix) Annual Report of Lanka Leyland (Private) Limited for the year 2015/2016;
- (x) Annual Report of Lanka Leyland (Private) Limited for the year 2016/2017;
- (xi) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Cement Corporation for the year 2017;
- (xii) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the National Design Centre for the year 2017; and
- (xiii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Phosphate Limited for the year 2018/2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Dilan Perera presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 29.11.2020 from Mr. B. M. Premadasa of No. 239, Redeevana, Badulla; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 25.01.2021 from Mr. L. M. Ananda Bandara of No. 65, Imbulgoda, Badulla.
- (2) Hon. Chandima Weerakkody presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 18.12.2020 from Mr. K. K. Nihal of Annangoda Watta, Ganegoda, Akmemana;

- (ii) a petition dated 10.01.2021 from Mr. K. M. I. Wijerathne of No. 09, Dharmashoka Mawatha, Aruppala, Kandy; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 27.12.2020 from Mr. P. L. Upali of Kurunduwatta, Maihena, Maththaka.
- (3) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
- (i) a petition dated 09.12.2020 from Mr. Javith A. Jaleel of No. 05, Saviyapura Road, Puttlam;
 - (ii) a petition dated 20.11.2020 from Mr. M. A. Piyadasa of Halpotha Waththa, Narandeniya, Kamburupitiya.;
 - (iii) a petition dated 19.10.2020 from Mr. M. K. W. Wickramarathne of No. 6/10, First Lane, Old Road, Maharagama; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 19.10.2020 from Mr. R. Ranjith Senarathna of “Asiri”, Dambulla, Udagaladeniya, Rambukkana.
- (4) Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda presented a petition dated 15.01.2021 from Mr. C. Gunarathne of No. 136/4, Mahabodhi Road, Pahala Karagahamuna, Kadawatha.
- (5) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented —
- (i) a petition dated 15.01.2021 from Mr. N. A. R. S. Bandara of Kaikawala watta, Kaikawala; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 21.12.2020 from Mrs. W. P. G. Indra Kumarihamy of No. 101, Udangamuwa, Laliambe, Matale.
- (6) Hon. Akila Ellawala presented a petition dated 27.09.2020 from Mr. P. Senarath Nandalal of Galahitigama Junction, Kaltota Road, Balangoda.
- (7) Hon. Isuru Dodangoda presented a petition dated 12.10.2020 from Mrs. K. W. D. Priyadarshani of No. 226/10A, Richmond Hill Road, Galle.
- (8) Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff presented a petition dated 10.01.2021 from Mr. M. P. M. Irsath of Hijra Street, Pottuvil-01.

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

5. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 to 5 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day’s sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

6. Regulations under the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act : The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Minister of Industries moved,— That the 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 02nd March 2020, which were presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

(At 2.41 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.40 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Industries moved,— That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

7. Adjournment (Suspension of Import Ceramic Tiles and Sanitaryware) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021.