



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 54.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, February 12, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign and Leader of the House of Parliament

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. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Aviation and Export Zones Development

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. 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. 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. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandary & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation
- 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. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Naseer Ahamed**
- Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**
- Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**
- Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda**
- Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna**
- Hon. Akila 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. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
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. Charles Nirmalanathan
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. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

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 Speaker presented the—

- (i) Ninth Instalment – Part XV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2015;
- (ii) Second Instalment – Part XXXI and Ninth Instalment – Part XXII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018; and
- (iii) Second Instalment – Parts XV, XVI and XVII, Third Instalment – Part IX, Fourth Instalment – Part VII and Ninth Instalment – Parts VII, VIII, IX and X 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 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 as amended by the Acts, Nos. 48 of 1985 and 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2198/2 of 19th October 2020; and

- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by the Acts, Nos. 48 of 1985 and 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/20 of 29th October 2020

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Lands in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Coconut Research Board for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna presented —

- (i) a petition dated 04.09.2020 from Mr. A. Albert of No. 451, Old Negombo Road, Dandugama, Ja-Ela;
 - (ii) a petition dated 01.01.2021 from Mr. A. S. M. Pathiranaarachchi of No. 100/A, Ambanvita, Samagi Mawatha, Gampaha;
 - (iii) a petition dated 14.10.2020 from Mr. B. L. Kamalasiri of No. 173/24, Ranavirugama, Udupila, Delgoda;
 - (iv) a petition dated 24.09.2020 from Mrs. D. D. Seetha Ranasinghe of No. 192, Gonahena, Kadawatha;
 - (v) a petition dated 30.09.2020 from Mr. D. M. Thushara Siri Dissanayake of No. 256/281, Muhandiram Watta, Kalalpitiya, Pasyala;
 - (vi) a petition dated 27.11.2020 from Mr. P. R. A. Kapila Kumara of No. 54 A, Yatawaka, Urapola;
 - (vii) a petition dated 31.08.2020 from Mr. W. Jagath Chandana Perera of No. 290/2A, Pahala Karagahamuna, Ragama; and
 - (viii) a petition dated 25.08.2020 from Mr. W. D. Leslie Senarathna of No. 133/ D, Panawala Road, Nittambuwa.
- (2) Hon. Vijitha Berugoda presented a petition dated 08.10.2020 from Mr. H. M. Thennakoon of Maragahakandura, Diyakobala, Bibila.

- (3) Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya presented a petition dated 04.01.2021 from Mr. C.W.P. Withanachchi of No. 03, Thalgahahena Lane, Galle.

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

3. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06th October 2020, the hours of Sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.. At 4.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Votes of Condolence : The Minister of Foreign moved the Votes of Condolence on the late Hon. (Mrs.) Surangani Ellawala, late Hon. K.P. Silva and late Hon. Kapil Abeyratne, ex-Members of Parliament.

The Minister of Foreign moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.32 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.08 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse announced that the Speaker and himself associated together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of Hon. (Mrs.) Surangani Ellawala, Hon. K.P. Silva and Hon. Kapil Abeyratne, ex-Members of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send copies of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of their bereaved families.

5. Adjournment : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.18 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.