



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 55.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, February 23, 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 Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

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. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena, Minister of Lands

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. 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 & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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. 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. 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. Roshan Ranasinghe**, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government
- 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. 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. 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. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Sampath Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Naseer Ahamed**
- Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**
- Hon. M. Udayakumar**
- Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**
- Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda**
- Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna**
- Hon. Lalith Ellawala**
- 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. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe

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. Yadamini Gunawardena

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

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. Palani Thigambaram

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka

Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya

Hon. Isuru Dodangoda

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte

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. 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. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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. M. Rameshwaran

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

Hon. Waruna Liyanage

Hon. Gamini Waleboda

Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe

Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri

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. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan

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. 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

February 17, 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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Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

“I wish to inform that, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 112 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 07th January 2021, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology and Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security, during the First session of the Ninth Parliament:—

1. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology

Hon. Susil Premajayantha
 Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
 Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
 Hon. Imran Maharoof
 Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena

2. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
 Hon. Hector Appuhamy
 Hon. Akila Ellawala
 Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
 Hon. Rohana Bandara”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs for the years 2018 and 2019.

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

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) 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 21.12.2020 to 31.12.2020 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 6 of 2020; and
- (ii) 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 01.01.2021 to 31.01.2021 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 7 of 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to Shangri-la Hotels Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/18 of 18th December 2020;

- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to Sinolanka Hotels & Spa (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/19 of 18th December 2020; and
- (iii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2202/7 of 17th November 2020

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board for the year 2016; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Transport Medical Institute for the year 2017

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Trade presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2015 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Selacine Television Institute for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Tourism presented the—

- (i) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management for the years 2014 and 2015; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2018

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

Question put, and agreed to.

4. 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 ; and
- (ii) Resolution under the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235)

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka National Freedom from Hunger Campaign Board for the year of 2015 ;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka National Freedom from Hunger Campaign Board for the year of 2016; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute for the year of 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for the year 2018;
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Tourism Development Fund for the year 2018; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau 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. Douglas Devananda presented a petition dated 08.12.2020 from Mr. Nagarasa Pageeradan of Achchuweli South, Achchuweli.
- (2) Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 28.11.2020 from Mr. B. R. Wimalasena of No. 58/8, Wakwella Road, Galle; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 01.01.2021 from Mr. M. G. Vijith Jayantha of “Nirosha”, Wellabada Temple Road, Balapitiya.
- (3) Hon. Shehan Semasinghe presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 24.10.2020 from Mr. R. A. Gamini Ranasinghe of 3rd Lane, Kurundankulama, Anuradhapura;
 - (ii) a petition dated 15.08.2020 from Mr. R. M. Abeysinghe of Kunugonewa, Galenbindunuwewa; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 27.12.2020 from Mr. T. A. D. T. Senanayaka of No. 270, Polkotuwa watte, Palahela, Dekatana.
- (4) Hon. Lakshman Kiriella presented a petition dated 30.12.2020 from Mr. M. A. Sunil Jayalath of No. 42, Nadsa Houses Road, Mahara, Gampola.
- (5) Hon. Tissa Attanayake presented a petition dated 05.12.2020 from Mrs. J. Swarnalatha of “Sri Raj”, Wewita, Bandaragama.

- (6) Hon. Niroshan Perera presented a petition dated 05.10.2020 from Mr. M. R. Newton Marasinghe of Baranankattuwa, Mundalama.
- (7) Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala presented a petition dated 18.12.2020 from Mr. K. Ariyaratna of Koskumbura, Thorayaya.
- (8) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented a petition dated 05.01.2021 from Mr. H. G. Sirisena of “Pradeep”, Warakapitiya, Sulthanagoda.
- (9) Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda presented a petition dated 19.01.2021 from Mr. Kudagamage Malin Ajantha Perera of No. 484/8, Averihena, Hokandara.
- (10) Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka presented a petition dated 05.12.2020 from Mr. R. A. Dassanayake of Front Temple Road, Hindikiwula, Moneragala.
- (11) Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 12.11.2020 from Ms. D. G. N. M. Dissanayaka of No. 11/1, Walala Road, Wawinna, Wattedagama.

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

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1) : 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 1.00 p.m.. At 1.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : 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 Wednesday, 24th February, 2021 shall be 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.. At 11.30 a.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Privilege : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella seconded by Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, M.P. on 28th November, 2020 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges under the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1) : Hon. Tissa Attanayake seconded by Hon. Buddhika Pathirana moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Sathya Sri Ghanapathi Bhakthi Jana Sewa Foundation.”

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 Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs for report.

10. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2) : Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala seconded by Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Roshan Ranasinghe Janasahana Foundation.”

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 Health for report.

11. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 3) : Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte seconded by Hon. H. Nandasena moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Sisira Jayakody Siyapatha Foundation.”

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 Education for report.

(At 11.25 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

12. Regulations under the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act : Order read for resuming. Adjourned debate on question (10th February, 2021),— Motion made and question proposed that “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.”

Question again proposed; debate resumed.

Debate to be resumed on a future date.

(At 12.15 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

13. Adjournment: And it being 1.00 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.