



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 57.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Deputy Speaker and the Chair 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. Dullas 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. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

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. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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. 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. 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. Arundika Fernando**, State Minister of Coconut, Kithul and Palmyrah Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing & Export Diversification
- 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. 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. 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. 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. Amarakeerthi 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. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Naseer Ahamed
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

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. 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. (Prof.) Ranjith 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. 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. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for the year 2019.

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

(2) 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 District Secretariat – Hambantota 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.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Finance in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Foreign presented the Final Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry to Investigate and Inquire into and Report or Take Necessary Action on the Bomb Attacks on 21st April 2019 in Sinhala and English languages only with special approval of the House.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Order made by the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 and Section 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Medical Education of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2160/40 of 30th January 2020.

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

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma presented a petition dated 07.10.2020 from Mrs. J.K. Gamini Seetha Ranjani of “Gamini”, Mapalana, Kamburupitiya.

(2) Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera presented —

(i) a petition dated 01.11.2020 from Mr. I.G. Ranjith Wickremarathne of Seepoth, Yatiyanthota; and

(ii) a petition dated 08.10.2020 from Mr. W.B.W.M.R.U.N.T.B. Aluvihare of No. 58, Matale Road, Elkaduwa.

- (3) Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna presented a petition dated 26.12.2020 from Mr. B.H.D.H. Thilakarathna of No. 153/4, Kande Watta, Suwasewa Mawatha, Mahaheenatiyangala, Kaluthara South.

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

3. 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 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. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 09th March, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Votes of Condolence : The Minister of Foreign moved the Vote of Condolence on the late Hon. W. J. M. Lokubandara, the former Speaker and ex-Member of Parliament.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.59 a.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

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

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.51 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

Hon. Dilan Perera seconded by Hon. Sisira Jayakody moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.35 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan took the Chair.)

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan announced that the Speaker and himself associated with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the death of the late Hon. W. J. M. Lokubandara, the former Speaker and ex-Member of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send a copy of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of his bereaved family.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.28 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 09, 2021 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.