



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 58.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, March 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. 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. 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. (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 & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Health

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. 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. 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. 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. 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 Provincial Councils & Local Government
- Hon. Lohan Ratwatte**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries and State Minister of Prison Management & Prisoners' Rehabilitation
- 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. Kanchana Wijesekera**, State Minister of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish & Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multi day Fishing Activities and Fish Exports
- 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. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha 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. 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. 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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
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. (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. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
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. 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. 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. Nipuna 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. 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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the First Instalment – Parts XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX and XXI and Fourth Instalment – Part VIII and Sixth Instalment – Parts XVII, XVIII and XIX 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 Report do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Eighth Instalment – Part XXIII of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation of monitoring efficiency of the Department of Excise on Licensed Distilleries;
- (ii) Eighth Instalment – Part XXIV of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Performance in the process of producing vegetable seeds locally; and
- (iii) Tenth Instalment – Part I of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Special Audit Report on the Manampitiya Sand Mining Project

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 Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Navy for the year 2019 ; and
- (ii) Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2217/5 of 01st March 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 Report and Papers do lie upon the **Table**.

(4) 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 Public Enterprise Development 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.

(5) 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. 2206/5 of 14th December 2020; and
- (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), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2207/15 of 24th December 2020.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Foreign presented the—

- (i) First, Second and Third Volumes of the Final Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry to Inquire into and obtain information in relation to alleged political victimization of public officers, employees of public corporations, members of the Armed Forces and the Police who held posts during the period commencing on 08th January 2015 and ending on 16th November 2019; and
- (ii) Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry to Investigate into Allegations of Corruptions and Malpractices that had taken place from 15th January, 2015 to 31st December, 2018 in the Government Institutions

in Sinhala language only with special leave of the House.

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

(7) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business Management Honours Degree awarded by International College of Business and Technology Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2194/72 of 25th September 2020;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Master of Philosophy in Nursing Degree awarded by KAATSU-Highly Advanced Medical Technology Training Centre (Pvt) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2196/40 of 07th October 2020;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business Management Honours Degree awarded by Benedict XVI Catholic Institute of Higher Education (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2201/4 of 09th November 2020;
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Master of Business Administration by Course Work Degree awarded by CINEC Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/1 of 28th December 2020;
- (v) Order made by the Minister Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business Honours in International Economic and Finance Degree awarded by Royal Institute Colombo (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/49 of 01st January 2021;
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business management (Honours) Degree awarded by Business Management School (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/49 of 01st January 2021; and
- (vii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Science Honours Biotechnology Degree awarded by Horizon College of Business and Technology (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/49 of 01st January 2021.

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

(8) The Minister of Trade presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Trade presented the Orders 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. 2202/6 of 17th November 2020 and moved that those Orders be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Justice presented the Performance Report of the Government Analyst's Department for the year 2019.

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

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the—

- (i) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (ii) Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017; and
- (iii) Orders under the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. C. B. Rathnayake presented a petition dated 16.11.2020 from Mr. A. R. M. Abeyrathne of No. 1/24, Piyatissapura, Bambarakele, Nuwaraeliya.
- (2) Hon. Susil Premajayantha presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 03.01.2021 from Mr. M. A. N. Bandara of No. B1/G2, Forbes Road, Maradana, Colombo 10; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 21.01.2021 from Mr. W. Sirisena Perera of No. 347/1A, Kotte Road, Nugegoda.
- (3) Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 06.10.2020 from Mrs. H. A. Seelawathie of No. 516/5, Vendesiwatta, Pitipana (South), Homagama;
 - (ii) a petition dated 10.11.2020 from Mr. Mr. W. A. Subasinghe Weerakkodi of No. 248/1, Chilaw Road, Bandarakoswatta;
 - (iii) a petition dated 01.09.2020 from Mr. R. M. K. S. Senavirathne of No. 828/2, Ihalanakalagamuwa, Kohilegedara; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 21.09.2020 from Mr. W. M. Thilakaratne of Kohombakadawala, Konewewa, Mahawa.
- (4) Hon. Nimal Lanza presented a petition dated 11.11.2020 from Mr. R.V. Bandula of “Maleesha“, Dehigaspa, Pitabeddara.
- (5) Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne presented a petition dated 21.08.2020 from Mr. Arambe Gedara Sanjeewa Ravindra Rajapaksha of No. 130, Kotakedeniya Road, Weligalla.

- (6) Hon. Vijitha Herath presented a petition dated 13.10.2020 from Mr. T. K. Jayasundara of No. 31A, Peella Road, Mount Pleasant, Hapugala, Wackwella,
- (7) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented a petition dated 21.01.2021 from Mr. A. P. Kawenis of Udupila, Mirissa.
- (8) Hon. S. M. Marikkar presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 11.01.2021 from Mr. Ajantha Ruwanpathirana of No. 9/2, Government Houses, Kolonnawa Road, Kolonnawa;
 - (ii) a petition dated 25.01.2021 from Mr. L. P. Jayasundara of No. 14/3, Isurupura, Kesbewa, Piliyandala; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 08.09.2020 from Mr. P. V. S. Priyankara Perera of No. 279/B, Manigamulla Road, Gothatuwa.
- (9) Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna presented a petition dated 11.01.2021 from Mrs. H. G. Renuka Deepani of “School View”, Agalawatta.
- (10) Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 16.10.2020 from Mr. M. K. B. Herath of No. 35/B/2, Pragathi Mawatha, Udairiyagama, Peradeniya;
 - (ii) a petition dated 07.12.2020 from Mrs. O. G. Anusha Udayanganie Kumari of Kethsiri, Ihalagama, Pussellawa; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 24.10.2020 from Mr. T. M. Rathnayaka of No. 62/A, Kobbekaduwa, Ihala Kobbekaduwa.
- (11) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 10.02.2021 from Mr. M. P. Lalith Padmasiri of No. 536/2, Bandaranayaka Road, Weyangoda.
- (12) Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana presented a petition dated 25.09.2020 from Mr. N.A.M.C. Priyantha Kumara of No. 151, Welikada, Makewita.
- (13) Hon. Samanpriya Herath presented a petition dated 15.01.2021 from Mr. H. M. Sarath Gamini Herath of “Herath paya”, Meenewa - Ilukhena, Kuliypitiya.

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

4. 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. 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 3.30 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Regulations under the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act : Order read for resuming. Adjourned debate on question (23rd 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.

(At 11.38 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. Lalith Ellawala seconded by Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the 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, which were presented on 23.02.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Trade moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Trade moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Select Committee of Parliament to look into and report to Parliament its recommendations to ensure gender equity and equality with special emphasis on looking into gender based discriminations and violations of women’s rights in Sri Lanka : The State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control moved,— Whereas Article 12 of the Fundamental Rights Chapter of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka recognizes that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law;

And whereas, Article 12(4) provides for affirmative legislative or executive action for the advancement of women's rights;

And whereas, the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has ratified several international legal instruments that promote gender equality *inter alia* Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

And whereas, ensuring the gender equity and equality and empowering all women and girls have become important in the context of sustainable development goals adopted, by the United Nations for which Sri Lanka is a signatory; and

And whereas, the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in Parliament Chaired by the Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle, has resolved the necessity of setting up a mechanism to advocate and mainstream gender equity and equality through their representation, lawmaking, budgeting and oversight functions; and

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to look into and make recommendations in respect of the following in order to address gender based discrimination ensuring that gender equity and equality is promoted and respected, and all women and girls are empowered in Sri Lanka:—

- (a) hearing grievances of women on all sorts of gender based discriminations including employment, promotional opportunities and harassments in work place;
- (b) reviewing and advocating for the allocation of adequate domestic resources in all sectors and at all levels, and access to improve gender equity and equality in Sri Lanka;
- (c) scrutinizing and reviewing relevant laws, ensuring gender mainstreaming to prevent discrimination and negative impact on the lives of women and girls;
- (d) lobbying with relevant line Ministries and authorities to ensure gender responsive planning and budgeting;
- (e) undertaking awareness campaigns and encouraging information dissemination on matters related to achieving equality among men and women;
- (f) lobbying and advocating for more women representation in decision-making bodies on national, provincial and local level, in public, civil society and in private sectors;
- (g) reviewing measures for integration of gender equality principles at National, Provincial and Local levels;
- (h) encouraging public-private partnerships to improve gender equity and equality in Sri Lanka;
- (i) sharing expertise and experiences among countries at regional and international levels and reviewing lessons learnt from other Parliaments; and
- (j) consideration of all matters which are connected with or incidental to the above matters.

2. (a) That the Committee and its Chair shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
(b) That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 101 of the Parliament, the Committee shall consist of not more than twenty five (25) Members comprising all members of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in Parliament and other Male Members of Parliament representing all political parties.
3. That the Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to produce and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
 - (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
 - (d) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.
4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of one year from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.
5. The report of the Committee, once tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the Ministers in charge of relevant subject who shall submit their observations and steps taken therein contained to the House within a period of eight (08) weeks.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment (Empowerment of Women Through Ratification of Convention No. 190 of International Labour Organization): The Minister of Highways moved,—
That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

The State Minister of Women and Child Development, Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services moved,— That Hon. Isuru Dodangoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.52 p.m. Hon. Isuru Dodangoda took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

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