



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 59.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, March 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. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

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. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon, Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media

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. (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. Piyanara 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. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva**, State Minister of Production and Supply of Fertilizer and Regulation of Chemical Fertilizer and Insecticide Use
- 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kapila 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. Tiran Alles

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. 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. (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. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
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. 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. 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. 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. Wasantha Yapabandara
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. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
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. 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. Mahinda Samarasinghe

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. H. M. M. Harees

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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 Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the Department of Samurdhi Development for the year 2019.

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

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the Department of Ayurveda for the year 2018.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation for the year 2015 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Regulation made by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation under Section 237 read with Section 135(4) of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2144/19 of 09th October 2019; and

- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Transport Services Management under Section 237 read with Section 143 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2160/33 of 30th January 2020 .

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath, Chair of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the First Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the First Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal presented a petition dated 07.12.2020 from Mr. M.A.S. Padmasiri of Digapatha Road, Hingurala, Puwakpitiya.
- (2) Hon. Madhura Withanage presented a petition dated 23.01.2021 from Mr. P. A. U Illanperuma of 18/1A, 1st Cross Street, Pagoda, Nugegoda.
- (3) Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya presented a petition dated 23.01.2021 from Prof. Chandana Jayalath of No. 2/43, Kotadeniyawa Road, Hakurukumbura, Meerigama.

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

4. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That the proceedings on Item No. 1 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. 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. 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 11.00 a.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.

6. 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, 23rd March, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Buddhika Pathirana seconded by Hon. Kins Nelson moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill :—

“Bill to incorporate the ‘Matara Season Organization’.”

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.

8. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the 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, which was presented on 09.03.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry to Investigate and Inquire into and Report or Take Necessary Action on the Bomb Attacks on 21st April, 2019): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

(At 11.52 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.30 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Energy moved,— That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.35 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries and State Minister of Prison Management & Prisoners' Rehabilitation moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.55 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. the debate stood adjourned: debate to be resumed on a future date.

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 Tuesday, March 23, 2021, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.