



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 61.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, March 24, 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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

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. 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. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera, Minister of Public Security

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Justice

- Hon. Dilum Amunugama**, State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry
- 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. 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. Piyanaka 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Kapila 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. Gayantha Karunatilleka
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. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
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. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
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. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
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. 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. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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 Minister of Highways presented the Recommendations of the Finance Commission for the year 2021 to His Excellency the President in terms of the Article 154R (4) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialistic Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Minister of Highways presented —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Air Force for the year 2019;
and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Army for the year 2019

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development for the year 2018.

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

(4) The Minister of Trade presented the Order made by the Minister of Trade under Section 14(1) of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2210/9 of 12th January 2021 and moved that the Order be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Ltd for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Mohomad Muzammil, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Regulation under Section 237 read with Section 135 (4) of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203);
- (ii) Regulations under Section 237 read with Section 143 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203);
- (iii) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Transport Commission for the year 2017;
- (iv) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Transport Commission for the year 2018;
- (v) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board for the year 2016; and
- (vi) Annual Report of the National Transport Medical Institute for the year 2017

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 23.11.2020 from Mrs. D. M. Devika of “Vidusara”, Rathna Hangamuwa, Ratnapura;
 - (ii) a petition dated 07.09.2020 from Mr. E. M. W. Gunathilaka of Damme Road, Palawela, Rathnapura;
 - (iii) a petition dated 02.02.2021 from Mr. H. A. V. A. Nawarathna of Pussalla, Parakaduwa;
 - (iv) a petition dated 09.10.2020 from Mrs. M. Pemawathie of Iththa Demaliya Gedara, Gajanayaka Gama, Hakuruwela;
 - (v) a petition dated 25.09.2020 from Mr. O. Narada Sri Witharana of No. 47, Mahawela Road, Ratnapura;
 - (vi) a petition dated 01.09.2020 from Mrs. R. N. D. Sriyananda of No. 147/1, Sri Kemananda Mawatha, Muwagama, Rathnapura;
 - (vii) a petition dated 20.10.2020 from Mr. T. A. P. Thangalla of No. 10/4, Deduru Nadeegama, Ambakote; and
 - (viii) a petition dated 01.10.2020 from Mr. W. M. Ashoka Wijesinghe of No. 18 B, 50/9/1, Diyurumpitiya, Getahetta.
- (2) Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 18.01.2021 from Mr. K. Siripala of No. 20/2, Hokandara East, Horahena;
 - (ii) a petition dated 22.02.2021 from Mr. M. G. Nimal Padmasiri of No. 147E, Rakshapana Road, Ihala Bomiriya, Kaduwela; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 23.01.2021 from Mr. W. A. A. S. Jayawardena of No.384/16, Kottawa Road, Athurugiriya.

- (3) Hon. Kins Nelson presented —
- (i) a petition dated 01.02.2021 from Mr. H. G. Somachandra of No. 520, Pelatiyawa, Polonnaruwa; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 02.10.2020 from Mr. J. M. Dharmapala of No. 43 (Commercial), Siripura.
- (4) Hon. D. Weerasingha presented a petition dated 29.01.2021 from Mrs. J. L. N. D. Kumarihamy of No.205, Opposite of State Timber Corporation, Meegaswatta, Padiyathalawa.

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

4. National Minimum Wage of Workers (Amendment) : The Minister of Labour presented,— “Bill to amend the National Minimum Wage of Workers Act, No. 3 of 2016.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Monday, April 05, 2021 and be printed.

5. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) : The Minister of Justice presented,— “Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Monday, April 05, 2021 and be printed.

6. Regulation under the Motor Traffic Act (No.1) : The Minister of Transport moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 10.03.2021, be approved.

(At 12.07 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.46 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.41 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No.2) : The Minister of Transport moved,—That the 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, which were presented on 10.03.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Researches to be Conducted on Uruththirapurichcharam Sivan Kovil by Department of Archaeology) : The Minister of Highways moved,—That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Hon. Gamini Waleboda, seconded by Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake moved,—That Hon. Madhura Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.44 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021.