



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 63.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, March 26, 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. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade

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

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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.) Sarath Weerasekera, Minister of Public Security

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. 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. Piyanakara Jayaratne, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification

- 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. 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. 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. 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. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
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. 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. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Palani Thigambaram

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula 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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
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. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
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. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have appointed the following Members of Parliament under the Chair of the Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle to serve on the Select Committee of Parliament to ensure gender equality and report to Parliament on its recommendations focusing on gender discrimination and women’s rights violations in Sri Lanka:-

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
 Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
 Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
 Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
 Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola
 Hon. Dilan Perera
 Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala
 Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
 Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
 Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
 Hon. Imran Maharoof
 Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
 Hon. M. Udayakumar
 Hon. Jagath Kumara
 Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmalee Kumarasinghe
 Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
 Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
 Hon. Rohana Bandara
 Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
 Hon. M. Rameshwaran
 Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
 Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
 Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
 Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Foreign presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) 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 Computer Science of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/20 of 18th December 2020;

- (ii) 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) and Bachelor of Performing Arts (Honours) in Kandyan Dance Degrees awarded by Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2210/18 of 13th January 2021;
- (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 Science Honours in Data Science, Bachelor of Science Honours in Cloud Computing, Bachelor of Science Honours in Software Engineering, Bachelor of Science Honours in Cyber Security, Bachelor of Science Honours in Engineering in Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Music Honours Degrees awarded by SLT Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2210/18 of 13th January 2021;
- (iv) 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 in Human Resource Management, Bachelor of Business Management Honours, Bachelor of Business Management Honours in Accounting & Finance and Bachelor of Business Management Honours in Marketing Degrees awarded by Saegis Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2211/69 of 22nd January 2021; and
- (v) 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 and Bachelor of Science Honours in Engineering in Mechatronics Engineering Degrees awarded by CINEC Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2214/4 of 08th February 2021.

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

(2) The Minister of Fisheries presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala presented a petition dated 05.12.2020 from Mr. D. H. S. Sunil Jayawardena of No. 595/181, Bodhiraja Mawatha, Kuruppu Junction, Polonnaruwa.
- (2) Hon. Asanka Navarathna presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 08.02.2021 from Mr. K. M. N. Karunathilake of Paluwatte, Ahugoda, Pothuhera; and

- (ii) a petition dated 17.02.2021 from Mr. S. Nazar of Jagama, Palukadawala, Galgamuwa.

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

4. General Sir John Kotelawala National Defence University : 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 presented,— “Bill to provide for the establishment maintenance and administration of a university known as the General Sir John Kotelawala National Defence University; to impart higher education at university level; to provide for the vesting of kandawala estate and the movable property thereon in the university; to repeal the Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Act, No.58 of 1981 and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

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

5. Inland Revenue (Amendment): 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 presented,— “Bill to amend the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017.”

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

6. Value Added Tax (Amendment) : 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 presented,— “Bill to amend the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Monday, April 5 2021 and be printed.

7. 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 4.30 p.m.. At 10.00 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 4.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the Parliament shall sit on Monday, April 05th, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Monday, April 05th, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment (Final Report of 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.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (25th March 2021).

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

(At 11.35 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

Hon. Nimal Piyathissa seconded by Hon. Anupa Pasqual moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.35 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Company Estate Reforms, Tea and Rubber Estates Related Crops Cultivation and Factories Modernization and Tea and Rubber Export Promotion moved,— That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.49 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

And it being 4.30 p.m. debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Wednesday, April 07, 2021.

And it being 4.30 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 Monday, April 05, 2021 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.