



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 64.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, April 05, 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. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

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. (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. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

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. 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. Piyanakara Jayaratne**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification
- 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. (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. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion
- Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe**, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government
- 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. 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

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
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. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
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. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
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. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Kabir Hashim
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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of three petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Inland Revenue (Amendment)’.”

II

“I wish to inform the House that a decision was taken by the Committee on Parliamentary Business held on Thursday 25th of March 2021 to provide an opportunity to the Backbenchers of Parliament to ask questions of urgent public importance at the time of Adjournment of the House.

Accordingly, I wish to inform that Twenty (20) Minutes, out of the one hour allotted for Adjournment motions on the days when time has been allotted for Adjournment motions, have been set aside for only two (2) ‘Adjournment Questions’.

I also wish to state that the questions at the time of Adjournment should be asked subject to the following guidelines:—

SET OF GUIDELINES FOR QUESTIONS AT THE ADJOURNMENT TIME

Twenty (20) Minutes shall be allocated for Questions at the Adjournment Time on the allotted dates, and two (02) questions at the adjournment time shall only be allowed. One (01) for the Government and one (01) for the opposition.

Five (05) Minutes shall be given to the Member of Parliament to raise the Question and Five (05) Minutes shall be given to the Minister concerned to answer the question.

Questions at the Adjournment Time shall be restricted to matters of urgent public importance and the Member of Parliament shall be allowed to ask only one (01) such question per day.

Matter of urgent public importance of the Questions at the Adjournment Time shall be decided by the Speaker.

Any Member of Parliament could submit a Question at the Adjournment Time to the respective Chief Whip personally or through fax or e-mail provided that such a question has been signed by the Member of Parliament concerned.

The respective Chief Whip shall submit any such question to the Secretary-General of Parliament by 10.00 a.m. of the preceding day and by 12 noon, it shall be sent to the Secretary to the Leader of the House of Parliament to be duly conveyed to the respective Minister.

The Secretary to the Leader of the House of Parliament shall submit such Questions at the Adjournment Time to the respective Ministers to answer them on the floor of the House. The Minister shall have the right to answer or not answer any such question on the floor of the House and to request it to be listed as a Question for Oral Answer, if it is gathering detailed information requiring lengthy answers.

A Member of Parliament asking a Question at the Adjournment Time shall confine himself only to the question for which notice has already been given by him.

No supplementary questions shall be allowed.

Rules under the Standing Order 36 of the Parliament shall apply to the questions at the adjournment time as well.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.02.2021 to 25.02.2021 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 7 of 2020 .

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

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Road Development Authority for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Reports of the Ceylon - German Technical Training Institute for the years 2016 & 2017 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital - Seeduwa for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. 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. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.. At 4.00 p.m.. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Questions for Oral Answers appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Standing Orders 27 and 35 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.28 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena seconded by Hon. Ishak Rahuman moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade moved,—That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.35 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.24 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 3.55 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

5. Select Committee of Parliament to identify appropriate reforms of the election laws and the electoral system and to recommend necessary amendments : 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,—

Whereas, it has become necessary to identify appropriate reforms of the election laws and the electoral system; and to propose the amendments necessary to effect the desired reforms,

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to—

- (a) identify appropriate changes in the election laws and the electoral system; and
 - (b) recommend necessary amendments.
2. (a) That the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker;
- (b) that notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall consist of fifteen (15) Members; and
- (c) that the Committee shall report to Parliament within six months of its first sitting or such extended period as Parliament may grant.
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 procure 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 sit notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 3.58 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 06, 2021.