



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 65.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, April 06, 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 Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

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. 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. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education

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. (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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- 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. 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. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
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. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
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. 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. 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. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

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 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government presented the Annual Report of the Official Languages Commission for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath, Chair of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the Second Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the First Session of the Ninth Parliament on the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) Invested and Established by the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund which was referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera presented a petition dated 18.01.2021 from Mr. L. E. Wijethunga of No. 25/10/F, Germanwatta, Pepiliyawala.
- (2) Hon. Nimal Lanza presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 25.01.2021 from Mrs. A. A. N. Fernando of No. 27/B, De Mazanod Road, Kandana;
 - (ii) a petition dated 01.02.2021 from Mr. Udaya Prasad Sanjeeva Nelundeniya of No. 270/2, Welipillewa, Ganemulla; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 28.12.2020 from Mrs. W. S. Mallika Perera of No. 75/B, Batuwatta, Ragama.
- (3) Hon. Vijitha Berugoda presented a petition dated 10.02.2021 from Mr. Paranagamage Piyadasa of Janapada Handiya, Hambegamuwa, Thanamalwila.
- (4) Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa presented a petition dated 19.12.2020 from Mr. A. M. A. Latheef of No. 427/3, Hamsiyawatta, Alabadagama.
- (5) Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi presented a petition dated 20.11.2020 from Mr. E. H. Amarasena of Amara Rice Mills, Ambalantota Road, Sooriyawewa.
- (6) Hon. Shantha Bandara presented a petition dated 24.01.2021 from Mr. L. A. N. Piyasiri of Weerasevana, Mudunna, Uhumeeya.

- (7) Hon. Waruna Liyanage presented a petition dated 11.02.2021 from Mr. L. H. L. Rajapaksha of No. 04, Batugedara Old Road, Batugedara,, Rathnapura.
- (8) Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake presented a petition dated 10.01.2021 from Mr. G. P. H. Silva of No. C/224, Badulupitiya, Badulla.

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

4. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Ashoka Priyantha seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill :—

“Bill to incorporate the Dedigama Sri Maithri Pragnartha Bouddha Educational Daham Sabhawa.”

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 Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs for report.

5. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 1): 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 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by the Acts, Nos. 48 of 1985 and 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/20 of 29th October 2020, which were presented on 12.02.2021, be approved.

(At 12.08 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 Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.33 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 2): 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 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, which were presented on 09.03.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 3) : 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 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, which were presented on 09.03.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 1) : 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to Shangri-la Hotels Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/18 of 18th December 2020, which was presented on 23.02.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 2) : 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to Sinolanka Hotels & Spa (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/19 of 18th December 2020, which was presented on 23.02.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Revision of Salary and Allowances of the Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption: 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,— Whereas provisions have been made under Section 16(1) of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Act, No. 19 of 1994, to appoint a Director-General to the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for assisting the functions carrying out by the Commission and to pay a salary as determined by the Parliament to the person who holds that post;

And whereas, the salary and allowances of the post previously held by Mrs. A. A. P. Dilrukshi Dias Wickramasinghe, President's Counsel who was appointed to the post of Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption in the year 2015 and Mr. Sarath Jayamanna, President's Counsel who was appointed to the same post in the year 2016, are higher than the salaries and allowances received after their appointment as Director-General, action has been taken to revise the salaries and allowances to be paid to those officers as per the Cabinet Decision No. අමප/16/0947/702/040 dated 14.06.2016;

And whereas, as per the Cabinet Decision No. අමප/20/0443/201/012 and dated 19.02.2020 with regard to the Cabinet Memorandum dated 18.02.2020 submitted by the President to the Cabinet of Ministers, Mr. W. K. Damith Wijeratne who served as a High Court Judge, has been appointed to the post of Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption with effect from 21.01.2020;

And whereas, the salary payable to Mr. W. K. Damith Wijeratne after his appointment to the present post is being quite lower than the salary and allowances of the previous post;

And whereas he has been appointed to the post of Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption, while considering his educational background and professionalism, following the requirement of the government, approval has been granted by the Cabinet decision dated 19.02.2020 to pay him the salary and allowances relating to his previous post as High Court Judge, being personal to him, from 30.01.2020, according to the prior precedents:—

(a) to pay the monthly salary and all allowances entitled to the post of High Court Judge in the same manner, from 30.01.2020; and

(b) not to pay relevant allowances, if he uses the official residence and official vehicle in respect of the current post;

Accordingly, that this Parliament resolves that the aforesaid monthly salary and allowances be paid to Mr. W. K. Damith Wijeratne, Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption, and shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund, in terms of Section 16(2) of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Act, No. 19 of 1994.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Adjournment (Price Regulation of Essential Commodities) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

The Minister of Trade moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.56 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe 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 Wednesday, April 07, 2021.