



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 66.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, April 07, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

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. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection

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. Dayasiri Jayasekara**, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products
- Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation 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. Nimal Lanza**, State Minister of Rural Roads and other Infrastructure
- 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

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Amarakeerthi 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. 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 Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
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. 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. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula 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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
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. 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. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoo
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
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. 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. 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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform the Parliament that after consideration of the legal opinion and the provisions of the Constitution, the Secretary-General of Parliament, in terms of Section 64(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981, has informed the Chairman of the Election Commission of a vacancy which occurred in the Membership of the Ninth Parliament due to the fact that the Hon. A. A. Ranjan Leo Sylvester Ramanayake, Member of Parliament for the Electoral District of Gampaha, ceased to be a Member of Parliament in terms of Article 66(d) of the Constitution.”

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

- (i) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 32 read with Sections 8 and 30 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended, regarding Foolproof Sticker and Sticker Management System, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/34 of 01st January 2021;
(Excise Notification No. 01/2021)
- (ii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 25 read with Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Annual Liquor License Fees, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/35 of 01st January 2021;
(Excise Notification No. 02/2021)
- (iii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 22(1) of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Duty on Bottled Toddy, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2209/42 of 07th January 2021;
(Excise Notification No. 03/2021)

- (iv) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended, regarding Excise, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2209/44 of 07th January 2021;
(Excise Notification No. 04/2021)
- (v) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Sections 4 and 12 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended, regarding Excise, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2209/43 of 07th January 2021;
(Excise Notification No. 05/2021)
- (vi) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 25 read with Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2210/2 of 11th January 2021;
(Excise Notification No. 06/2021)
- (vii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2213/34 of 03rd February 2021;
- (viii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2213/35 of 03rd February 2021;
- (ix) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2213/36 of 03rd February 2021;
- (x) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2213/37 of 03rd February 2021;
- (xi) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Sections 5, 7 and 8 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2213/38 of 03rd February 2021;
and
- (xii) 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. 2214/56 of 11th February 2021.

and moved that those Notifications and Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report & Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency for the year 2018 and moved that those Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Tea Shakthi Fund for the year 2012; and

- (ii) Annual Report & Accounts of the Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation for the year 2018

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Consumer Affairs Authority for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Lanka Sathosa for the year 2016;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Lanka Sathosa for the year 2017;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation Ltd for the year 2017-2018;
- (v) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board for the year 2018;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board for the year 2019;
- (vii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the year 2018;
- (viii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the year 2019;
- (ix) Annual Report and Accounts of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2015; and
- (x) Annual Report and Accounts of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2016

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 24.12.2020 from Mr. G. L. R. Mendis of No. 94/C/1, Thammita, Makawita;
 - (ii) a petition dated 06.02.2021 from Mr. M. P. J. Kumara of No. 167/1, Dheerananda Mawatha, Mugurugampala, Meerigama;
 - (iii) a petition dated 06.02.2021 from Mr. N. P. L. Jayananda of No. 398/7, Sanju Uyana, Naiwala Road, Udugampola;
 - (iv) a petition dated 21.09.2020 from Mr. P. A. Nimal Chandrasiri Perera of No. 200/35, 27, Polhena, Kelaniya; and
 - (v) a petition dated 17.01.2021 from Mr. Sirisinghe Amarathunga of No. 239/1, Wewagedara Road, Divulapitiya.

- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva presented a petition dated 12.12.2020 from Mr. D. A. Gamini Manage of No. 515/1, Old Road, Sunil Ranasinghe Mawatha, Kottawa, Pannipitiya.

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

5. Registration of Electors (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 Registration of Electors Act, No.44 of 1980.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 and to be printed.

6. 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. 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.. At 11.00 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.

7. 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.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (26th March 2021).

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

(At 12.21 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.45 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.18 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara took the Chair.)

And it being 4.30 p.m. debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Thursday, April 08, 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 Thursday, April 08, 2021.