



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 68.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, April 09, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

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. 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. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

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

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry

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

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

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products

- 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. 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. 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. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries
-

- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Kapila 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. 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. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
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. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
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. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
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. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
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. Official Oath or Affirmation by new Members : Hon. A. Ajith Kumara Mannapperuma, Member of Parliament for Gampaha Electoral District, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Book at the **Table**.

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to announce the determination of the Supreme Court on the Bill titled ‘Inland Revenue (Amendment)’ in respect of which petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that exclusion of ‘full-time employee of the taxpayer’ from the applicability of section 126(5) of the principal enactment is inconsistent with Article 12(1) of the Constitution.

The Court further stated that the Bill and its provisions will cease to be inconsistent with the Constitution and can be passed by a simple majority in Parliament if Clauses 40 and 47 are amended as stated in the determination of the Court.

I order that the determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings.”

II

“I wish to inform the Parliament that I nominate Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasooriya, Member of Parliament in place of the Hon. Sarathie Dushmantha, Member of Parliament who was nominated by me on 08th September, 2020 to serve in the Chairman’s Panel during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament, in terms of the Standing Order 140 of the Parliament.”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Employees’ Provident Fund for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Labour for the year 2019.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 20(4)(b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, with regard to the appointment of Dr. Chamindalal Sujeewa Lewangamage as the Competent Authority in lieu of the Director of the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa with effect from January 01, 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/31 of 31st December 2020.

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

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the year 2018;
- (ii) Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Insurance Trust Fund for the year 2016;
- (iii) Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Development Lotteries Board for the year 2018;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka for the year 2018;
- (v) Annual Report of the Shrama Vasana Fund for the year 2017;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon for the year 2019;
- (vii) Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission for the year 2018; and
- (viii) Annual Report of the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2017

which were referred to the Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Udaya Gammanpila presented a petition dated 27.11.2020 from Mr. Y. Dayasiri of “Senasuma”, Devinigoda, Rathgama.
- (2) Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna presented a petition dated 12.02.2021 from Mr. W. W. Gamini Nanayakkara of No. 65, Habaralagahalanda, Melagama, Wadduwa.

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

6. 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 (08th April 2021).

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

(At 11.59 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. Milan Jayathilake seconded by Hon. Vijitha Herath moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Security moved,—That Hon. Isuru Dodangoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.04 p.m. Hon. Isuru Dodangoda took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.22 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.23 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.