



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 69.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

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. (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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media

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. (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. 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. Piyanaka Jayaratne**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification
- Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara**, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products
- 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. 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. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion
- Hon. Lohan Ratwatte**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries and State Minister of Prison Management & Prisoners' Rehabilitation
- 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. 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. 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. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Kapila Athukorala**
- Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala**
- Hon. Sampath Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Tiran Alles**
- Hon. Naseer Ahamed**
- Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**
- Hon. M. Udayakumar**
- Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**
- 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. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
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. Anura Dissanayaka
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. Manusha Nanayakkara
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. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
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. Harshana Rajakaruna
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. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
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 sixteen petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Colombo Port City Economic Commission’.

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (Amendment)’.

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

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the year 2017; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd for the year 2018

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Finance in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Road Development Authority for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation for the years 2017 & 2018 ;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital for the year 2018 ; and
- (iii) Annual Reports of the Ayurveda Medical Council for the years 2018 & 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Plantation presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tea Board for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited for the year 2018; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau for the year 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the Attorney General's Department for the year 2019

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

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (iii) Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017; and
- (iv) Excise Notifications under the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52)

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Chandima Weerakkody presented a petition dated 20.01.2021 from Mr. W. T. Keerthiratne of Keenaketiya, Ethkandura.
- (2) Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 01.02.2021 from Mr. Demani Asoka Somakeerthi of “Thusitha”, Palliyapitiya, Rathgama;
 - (ii) a petition dated 28.12.2020 from Mr. J. A. Damith Kumara of Gurubebila, Niyagama, Thalgaswala;
 - (iii) a petition dated 26.12.2020 from Mr. J. K. Amarawardena of No. 229, Universalcity, Hapugala, Wakwella, Galle; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 25.01.2021 from Mr. M. A. Senanayake of No. 288/2, Colombo Road, Dadalla, Galle.
- (3) Hon. Uddika Premarathne presented a petition dated 25.01.2021 from Mrs. R. B. H. A. Dissanayake of No. 530, Bandaranayake Mawatha, Wijepura.

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

5. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 to 8 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange 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 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, which were presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

(At 11.20 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. Harin Fernando seconded by Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Power moved,—That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.03 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.48 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange 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 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, which were presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange 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 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, which were presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act (No. 4) : 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 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, which were presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act (No. 5) : 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 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, which were presented on 07.04.2021, be approved..

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (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 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, which was presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 01/2021)

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (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 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, which was presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 02/2021)

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act : 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. 2214/56 of 11th February 2021, which were presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Adjournment (Issue of Urban Limits of Capital Sri Jayewardenepura) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Hon. Shantha Bandara seconded by Hon. Madhura Withanage moved,—That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.48 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam 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 21, 2021.