



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 72.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, April 23, 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 Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing

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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation

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

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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. (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. 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. (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. 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. 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. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Naseer Ahamed
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
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. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil

Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
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 announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have appointed a Special Committee under the Chair of the Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, the Deputy Speaker consisting of the following Members of Parliament to look into the incidents that took place on the 21st of April 2021 in the Chamber of Parliament and within the Parliament premises and to recommend what steps to be taken to such incidents and to prevent such incidents not to happen in future:—

The Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa

The Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella

The Hon. Susil Premajayantha

The Hon. Anura Priyadhrshana Yapa

The Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar

The Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara

The Hon. M.A. Sumanthiran”

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

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 22 read with Section 26 of the Finance Act, No. 11 of 2004 relating to International Telecommunications Operators Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/59 of 01st January 2021;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2209/17 of 05th January 2021; and
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 51 read with Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2209/23 of 05th January 2021

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

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development & Housing presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Housing Development Authority for the year 2016; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Construction Industry Development Authority 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. M. A. Sumanthiran presented a petition dated 21.11.2020 from Mr. L. J. Baptist of No. 72, Post Office Road, Trincomalee.
- (2) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 10.02.2021 from Mr. E. P. R. D. Edirisinghe of No. 88/01, Kaththota, Nittambuwa.

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

5. Leave to introduce Bill (No.1) : Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran seconded by Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill :—

“Bill to provide for the Declaration of a State of Public Health Emergency; to provide for the Adoption of Special Measures in the Interests of Public Health; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

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 Health for report.

6. Leave to introduce Bill (No.2) : Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya seconded by Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill :—

“Bill to amend the Chartered Institute of Transport of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Act, No. 8 of 2000.”

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 Transport for report.

7. Adjournment (Implementation of Recommendations of the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Political Victimization) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (22nd April 2021).

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

(At 11.21 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.30 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. John Seneviratne seconded by Hon. Mohomad Muzammil 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.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on a future date.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 22nd April 2021.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 04, 2021.