



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 73.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, May 04, 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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

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. 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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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. 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. 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. Jeevan Thondaman**, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure
- 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, Supply and Regulation of Organic and Natural Fertilizer
- Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development
- Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake**, State Minister of Wildlife Protection, Adoption of Safety Measures including the Construction of Electrical Fences and Trenches and Reforestation and Forest Resource Development
- 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. (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. Roshan Ranasinghe**, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government
- 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. 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. 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. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Kapila Athukorala**
- Hon. Sampath 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. Tiran Alles
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. 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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. 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. S. Noharathalingam
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. 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. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
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. 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. (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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
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. 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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to announce the Parliament that I have received the determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (Amendment)’ which was challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that the Bill is not inconsistent with the Constitution and may be passed by Parliament by a simple majority of Members present and voting.

I order that the determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official report of today's proceeding."

II

"I wish to inform that the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Committee on Public Enterprises by the Committee of Selection on 30th April 2021, in terms of provisions of the Standing Order 127(3) of the Parliament to fill the vacancy occurred due to the fact that the Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, M. P., has ceased to be a Member of Parliament."

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year 2019.

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

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Note on Supplementary Allocations from the "Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project" appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.03.2021 to 31.03.2021 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 7 of 2020; and
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 10A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to surcharge on the Customs duty payable on imported goods and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2213/7 of 01st February 2021

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2202/4 of 17th November 2020;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2202/44 of 21st November 2020;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/3 of 14th December 2020;

- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/10 of 16th December 2020;
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2210/16 of 13th January 2021;
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2211/8 of 18th January 2021;
- (vii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2214/58 of 11th February 2021; and
- (viii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2217/23 of 03rd March 2021.
- (ix) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 6(2) read with Section 8 of the Finance Act, No. 11 of 2006 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2214/25 of 09th February 2021;
- (x) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 as amended, relating to Ceylon Tyre Manufacturing Company (Pvt) Ltd and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2217/40 of 05th March 2021;
- (xi) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 as amended, relating to Colombo International Financial Centre and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2220/30 of 23rd March 2021; and
- (xii) 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. 2222/37 of 07th April 2021.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Labour presented the—

- (i) Recommendation Adopted at the International Labour Organization at its 106th Session held in the year 2017;
- (ii) Recommendation Adopted at the International Labour Organization at its 108th Session held in the year 2019; and
- (iii) Convention Adopted at the International Labour Organization at its 108th Session held in the year 2019.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Road Development Authority for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of Departments of Management and Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Business Management, Accountancy and Finance of the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2217/24 of 03rd March 2021; and
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Information Technology of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2217/25 of 03rd March 2021.

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

(7) The Minister of Fisheries presented the Annual Report of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Environment presented the Annual Report of the Central Environmental Authority for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment.

Question put, and agreed to.

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) Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Report of the Auditor General on the President's Fund – 2018;
- (iii) Regulations under the Finance Act, No. 11 of 2004;
- (iv) Order under the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018; and
- (v) Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera presented a petition dated 09.03.2021 from Mr. W. A. Pemachandra of No.129, Kahadawa, Thissa Road, Ranna.
- (2) Hon. S. M. Chandrasena presented a petition dated 20.12.2020 from Mr. H. M. K. Dissanayake of No. 131/B, Hospital Front Road, Medawachchiya.
- (3) Hon. S. B. Dissanayake presented a petition dated 29.11.2020 from Mr. N. K. Suriyabandara of No. 71/35/1, Second Lane, Heeressagala, Mulgampola, Kandy.
- (4) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented—
 - (i) a petition dated 24.02.2021 from Mr. C. Abeywickrama of No. 545/1B, Rathna Mawatha, Arewwala, Pannipitiya; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 16.01.2021 from Mrs. P. A. Chandrawathie of Adirappalai Watta, Somarama Road, Nawimana- North, Matara.
- (5) Hon. Shantha Bandara presented a petition dated 08.02.2021 from Mr. P. G. Cyril Gunarathne of “Siri Niwasa”, Katupilagolla, Rideegama.
- (6) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 24.02.2021 from Mr. K. W. Gamini Karunananda of No. 896/A, 17th Lane, Halmilla Aara, Colomboge Aara; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 21.02.2021 from Mr. R. J. H. Jayasundara of No. 112/2A, Jayathilaka Mawatha, Pilapitiya, Kelaniya.
- (7) Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda presented a petition dated 26.01.2021 from Mr. K. Vijaya Gunawardhane of No. 201, Akaravita, Gampaha.
- (8) Hon. Anupa Pasqual presented a petition dated 01.03.2021 from Mr. M. A. Kapila of No. 123 A, Gunanda Mawatha, Gungamuwa, Bandaragama.
- (9) Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara presented—
 - (i) a petition dated 04.03.2021 from Mr. M. Sisira Wilfred Karunarathne of No. 8, “Thusharagira”, Uda Peradeniya, Peradeniya; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 18.02.2021 from Mr. R. H. A. M. J. P. Karunarathne of No. 185/B, Bulumulla, Kiribathkumbura.
- (10) Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana presented a petition dated 18.01.2021 from Mrs. Padma Malani Mahagamaarachchi of No. 96/1, Wijaya Road, Gampaha.

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

5. 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. to 5.30 p.m.. At 11.00 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act : The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Minister of Trade moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Trade under Section 14(1) of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2210/9 of 12th January 2021, which was presented on 24.03.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No. 1) : 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 moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 03/2021)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No. 2) : 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 moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 04/2021)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No. 3) : 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 moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 05/2021)

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No. 4) : 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 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 Excise and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2210/2 of 11th January 2021, which was presented on 07.04.2021, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 06/2021)

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

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 moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

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 moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Clause 4

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 proposed an amendment to leave out lines 9 and 10 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“1988 within a period of six months from the end of the taxable period of which such exportation has taken place;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out line 19 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“end of the taxable period of which supply of such service is provided;”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 19 in page 2:—

- “(b) by the substitution in sub paragraph (ia) for the words “re-export under entre-port trade:” of the words and figures “re-export under entre-port trade, for which payment is received in foreign currency through a bank in Sri Lanka licenced under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988 within a period of six months from the end of the taxable period of which supply of such service is provided;”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out line 27 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

- “end of the taxable period of which supply of such service is provided”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 27 in page 2:—

- “(d) by the substitution in sub paragraph (v) for the words “payment is received in foreign currency through a bank, if” of the words and figures “payment is received in foreign currency through a bank in Sri Lanka licenced under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988 within a period of six months from the end of the taxable period of which supply of such service is provided, if;”;
- (e) by the substitution in sub paragraph (vi) for the words “payment is received in foreign currency, through a bank” of the words and figures “payment is received in foreign currency through a bank licenced under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988 within a period of six months from the end of the taxable period of which supply of such service is provided;”;
- (f) by the substitution in sub paragraph (vii) for the words “payment for such service is received in foreign currency, through a bank in Sri Lanka insofar” of the words and figures “payment for such service is received in foreign currency through a bank in Sri Lanka licenced under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988 within a period of six months from the end of the taxable period of which supply of such service is provided, in so far;”;
- (3) by the substitution in paragraph (c), for the words “foreign currency from outside Sri Lanka through a bank in Sri Lanka” of the words and figures “foreign currency from outside Sri Lanka through a bank in Sri Lanka licenced under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988 within a period of six months from the end of the taxable period of which supply of such service is provided”;

(4) by the insertion immediately after subsection (2), of the following new subsection;

“(3) Notwithstanding the payment in respect of supply of goods or services referred to in subsection (1) of section 7 is not received in foreign currency through a bank in Sri Lanka licenced under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988 within a period of six months from the end of the taxable period of which such exportation has taken place or supply of such service is provided, as the case may be, where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioner-General that such goods are exported or the services are performed, the rate specified in section 2 shall not apply on such supply of goods or services.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 5 was agreed to.

Clause 6

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 proposed an amendment to leave out lines 11 to 13 (both inclusive) in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“Tax Scheme administered by the Commissioner-General unless;

- (a) his taxable supply exceeds the total value of the taxable supplies referred to in subsection (1) of section 10; or
- (b) he is an exporter who proves to the satisfaction of the Commissioner-General that his total supplies have been exported; or
- (c) such person is willing to register for the purpose of the Simplified Value Added Tax Scheme as a Registered Identified Supplier as approved by the Commissioner-General.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 7

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 proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 12 in page 6:—

“(2) In subsection (6) of that section, by the insertion immediately after paragraph (v), of the following new paragraph;

“(vi) If the payment in respect of supply of goods or services referred to in subsection (1) of section 7 is not received in foreign currency through a bank in Sri Lanka licenced under the Banking Act, No. 30 of the 1988 within a period of six months from the end of the taxable period of which such exportation has taken place or supply of such service is provided, as the case may be.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 8

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 proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“(m) with effect from the date of commencement of this (Amendment) Act, local supply”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

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 moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

12. Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

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 moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

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 moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 were agreed to.

Clause 6

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 proposed an amendment to leave out line 21 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“ of the financial institution incurred on the loans”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out line 30 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“ income of such financial institution.”.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 17 were agreed to.

Clause 18

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 proposed an amendment to leave out line 21 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“Provided however, if a non-resident person”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 19 to 21 were agreed to.

Clause 22

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 proposed an amendment to leave out line 25 in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“(2) in subsection (5) of that section, in the definition”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 23 to 39 were agreed to.

Clause 40

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 proposed an amendment to leave out lines 11 to 14 (both inclusive) in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“amended by the repeal of subsection (5) of that section, and the subsection, and the substitution therefor of the following subsection :—

“(5) Where a return or part of a return was prepared for a payment by any person, including by an approved accountant, such person shall certify separately specifying the extent to which he was involved in the preparation of such return and specify the documents examined by him and the information relied upon by him. Such certification shall be submitted along with the return and the said certification shall be deemed to be part and parcel of the said return.”.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 41 was agreed to.

Clause 42

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 proposed an amendment to leave out line 13 in page 24 and substitute the following:—

“or other decision and notify the taxpayer in writing of the Commissioner-General’s decision and the reasons for the decision.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 43 to 46 was agreed to.

Clause 47

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 proposed an amendment to leave out lines 22 to 30 (both inclusive) in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“Punitive provision for fraudulently prepared or certified documents	190A. Any person who fraudulently-
	(a) prepares any document or information; or
	(b) certifies a document,
	to be furnished to the Commissioner-General of Inland Revenue, commits an offence under this Act, and on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate, be liable to a fine not exceeding One Million Rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding six months.”.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 17 (both inclusive) in page 27.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 48

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 proposed an amendment to leave out lines 14 to 19 (both inclusive) in page 29 and substitute the following:—

“(6) in the definition of the expression “Small and Medium Enterprise” of that section-

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (b) of that definition, of the following paragraph:-

“(b) subject to paragraph (d), the person does not have an associate that is an entity;”;

(b) by the addition immediately after paragraph (c) of that definition, of the following new paragraph:-

“(d) the person’s or his associate’s aggregate annual gross turnover is less than Rs. 500,000,000, if such associate is an entity or entities;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 49 and 50 were agreed to.

Clause 51

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 proposed an amendment to leave out lines 8 to 10 (both inclusive) in page 34 and substitute the following:—

“individual’s following gains and profits shall be taxed at the maximum rate of 14% with effect from April 1, 2021:-

(a) consideration received in respect of gems and jewellery;

(b) amounts received on the supply of electricity to national grid generated by using renewable energy resources by any individual.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 26 in page 37:—

“(II) with effect from April 1, 2021, gains and profits from the supply of electricity to national grid generated using renewable energy resources by a company— 14%”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out lines 6 to 10 (both inclusive) in page 40 and substitute the following:—

“(b) in subparagraph (3) of that paragraph, by the substitution for the words and figures “taxed at the rate of [28%].”, of the words and figures “taxed at the rate of 28% prior to January 1, 2020 and 24% with effect from January 1, 2020.”;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 52 to 54 were agreed to.

Clause 55

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 proposed an amendment to leave out line 36 in page 55 and substitute the following:—

“the year of assessment, and any amount which is not”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out line 4 in page 57 and substitute the following:—

“from the realization of investment assets;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 56 to 61 were agreed to.

Table A

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 proposed an amendment to leave out row 3 of table A in page 64 and substitute the following:—

“51(4)(c)	items (k), (l) and (ll) of subparagraph (2A) of paragraph 4 of the First Schedule”;
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Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Table as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Table B

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 proposed an amendment to leave out row 18 of table B in page 65 and substitute the following:—

“26	83	01.01.2020”;
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Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out row 7 of table B in page 67 and substitute the following:—

“51(4)(c)	subparagraph 2A of paragraph 4, other than items (k), (l) and (ll) of the First Schedule	01.01.2020”;
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Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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 proposed another amendment to leave out row 5 of table B in page 69 and substitute the following:—

“56(4)	paragraph 4 of the Sixth Schedule	01.03.2020”;
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Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Table as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

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 moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

13. Adjournment (Scientific Approach and an Integrated Programme for Control of COVID) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

(At 11.19 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Health moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.08 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.01 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.31 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 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 Wednesday, May 05, 2021.