



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 74.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, May 05, 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

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing

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. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Health

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 and the State Minister of Community Police Services

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. 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. 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 Wijsekera**, 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. 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. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha 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. 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. 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. 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. (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. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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 the following Members of Parliament under the Chair of the Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena to serve on the Select Committee of Parliament to identify appropriate reforms of the election laws and the electoral system and to recommend necessary amendments:—

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Anura Dissanayake
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. R.M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara

Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. M.A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam ”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Reports of the Construction Industry Development Authority for the years 2017 & 2018 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development & Housing.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2020.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera presented —
- (i) a petition dated 29.09.2020 from Mr. Asanka Dehiwatta of No.130/F1, Lesli Ranagala Mw., Borella, Colombo 08; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 20.09.2020 from Mr. H. G. Ranga Priyadarshana Kumara of No. 69/B, Seewaleepura, Borella.
- (2) Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka presented a petition dated 04.03.2021 from Mr. O. K. D. Weerasinghe of No. 243/1, Meegahawatta, Peliyagoda.
- (3) Hon. Lalith Ellawala presented a petition dated 17.02.2021 from Mr. K. D. Harith Sanuja Kalutharavithana of No. 42/1, 6th Lane, Training College Road, Nagoda, Kaluthara.
- (4) Hon. Milan Jayathilake presented a petition dated 27.01.2021 from Mr. Wasantha Kulathunga of No. 74/8, Amuhena, Bogahawatta, Pepiliyawala.
- (5) Hon. Uddika Premarathne presented a petition dated 01.03.2021 from Mr. S. A. Mahesh Indika Dharmasena of “Mahesh”, Kekirawa Road, Thalawa, Anuradhapura.
- (6) Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka presented a petition dated 01.03.2021 from Mrs. H. M. Kusumawathie of 19th Mile Post, Tamwatta, Nakkala, Monaragala.
- (7) Hon. Gamini Waleboda presented a petition dated 22.02.2021 from Mr. E. W. Upali Karunarathne of Keeramba, Haththella, Opanayaka.
- (8) Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe presented a petition dated 20.02.2021 from Mr. H. Y. Dinusha Suranga of Henapelawatta, Kalatiyawala, Kamburugamuwa.

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

4. Fiscal Management (Responsibility) (Amendment) : The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing presented,— “Bill to amend the Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act, No. 3 of 2003”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

5. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1) : 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 4.30 p.m.. At 10.00 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.

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18th, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. 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.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on Question (04th May 2021).

Question again proposed; debate resumed.

(At 11.39 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandary & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation moved,—That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.00 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.56 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

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 Tuesday, May 18, 2021, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.