



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 53.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 11, 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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

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. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

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. C. B. Rathnayake, Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation

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

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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. 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. (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 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. 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. (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 Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development
- 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. 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. 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
-

- 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. 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 Karunatilleka
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. (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. 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. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha 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. Manusha Nanayakkara
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. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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. (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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. John Seneviratne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

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. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties (Gazette Extraordinary No. 2202/5 of 17th November 2020) and moved that the Resolution be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019;
- (ii) Annual Report of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2019;
- (iii) Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Institute of Technology of the University of Moratuwa for the year 2019; and
- (iv) Annual Report of the Institute of Indigenous Medicine of the University of Colombo for the year 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education 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 Emeritus Professor Weerakoon Mudiyansele Abeyrathna Bandara as the Competent Authority in lieu of Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka with effect from September 13, 2020 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2192/61 of 11th September 2020.

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

(5) The Minister of Energy presented the National Policy on Natural Gas of Sri Lanka published by the Minister of Energy with regard to the National Policy on Natural Gas of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2197/27 of 17th October 2020.

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

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Gamini Lokuge presented —

- (i) a petition dated 07.12.2020 from Mr. A. M. D. S. C. Alahakoon of No. 182, Navodaya Mawatha, Marawila Road, Naththandiya;
- (ii) a petition dated 19.11.2020 from Mr. B. Y. B. B. Lasantha Kumara of No. 10/F, St. Michel Road, Hedigama, Piliyandala;
- (iii) a petition dated 20.10.2020 from Mr. G. B. B. Gunasekara of No. 1B, Rilawala, Polgasowita;
- (iv) a petition dated 27.11.2020 from Mr. K. Sumanasiri Fernando of No. 22, Kuduwamulla Road, Katubadda, Moratuwa;
- (v) a petition dated 23.12.2020 from Mr. K. S. Athula of No. 525/1C, Bokundara Road, Erawwala, Pannipitiya; and
- (vi) a petition dated 23.12.2020 from Mr. L. A. Ranjith Seelanatha of No. 6/A, Jayanthi Place, Verahera, Boralessgamuwa.

(2) Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda presented —

- (i) a petition dated 04.08.2020 from Mrs. M. D. A. Dampahala of No. 418/A, Kottawa Road, Athurugiriya; and
- (ii) a petition dated 08.01.2021 from Mr. S. K. K. Gaminda and 07 others of No. 341/2/7, Mahayayawatta, Gorakapitiya, Piliyandala.

(3) Hon. Lalith Ellawala presented —

- (i) a petition dated 15.10.2020 from Mrs. B. G. Kusumawathie of No. 319, Ramukkana Road, Wewita, Bandaragama;
- (ii) a petition dated 26.09.2020 from Mr. D. Duminda Wijesuriya of No. 20/G, Bamunumulla, Bandaragama;
- (iii) a petition dated 02.09.2020 from Mrs. I. K. Ruwan Pathirana of “Sandareka“, Meeragahawatta, Bandarawela;

- (iv) a petition dated 28.12.2020 from Mr. Piyadasa Thewarapperuma of No. 204/30, 3rd Lane, Rathnagiriya Watta, Hirana, Panadura; and
- (v) a petition dated 19.10.2020 from Mr. Samarasena Mudalige of Siriraja Mawatha, Weedagama, Bandaragama.
- (4) Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri presented a petition dated 11.01.2021 from Mr. P. P. Sarath Rajapakse of No. 35/A, 5th lane, Abeya place, Anuradhapura.
- (5) Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 12.11.2020 from Mr. Buddhika Sajeewa Vidanage of “Kethaki”, Pasal Mawatha, Kirinda, Puhulwella; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 04.01.2021 from Mr. G. W. S. Sirinatha of In front of Rural Bank, Hakmana Road, Medaulyangoda, Yatiyana, Matara.
- (6) Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena presented a petition dated 07.09.2020 from Mrs. H. G. A. Bhashini of No. 502/34, Thimbirigasyaya Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 5.

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

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

3. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation 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. 2189/4 of 17th August 2020, which were presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

The State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self Employment and Business Development moved,—That Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.36 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Regional Co-operation moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.35 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation 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) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2189/5 of 17th August 2020, which were presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 3) : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation 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) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2193/9 of 15th September 2020, which were presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2212/58 of 30th January 2021 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979, which was presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment (Methodology for Protection of Crops and Property from Wild Animals) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Agriculture moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.57 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.32 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021.