



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 83.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, July 08, 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 Economic Policies & Plan Implementation, 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. 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. (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. 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 and State Minister of Digital Technology and Enterprise Development

Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Health

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera, Minister of Public Security

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Justice

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, 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 Coast Conservation & Law-Lying Lands Development

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 Promoting the Production & Regulating the Supply of Organic Fertilizer, and Paddy and Grains, Organic Foods, Vegetables, Fruits, Chilies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promoting, 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. 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

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. Lakshman Kiriella

Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithra Arachchi

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. Udayakantha Gunathilaka

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan

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. S. B. Dissanayake

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. Niroschan 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. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
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. 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. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
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. 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. 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. Official Oath or Affirmation by new Member : Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Member of Parliament under Article 99A of the Constitution; made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Book at the **Table**.

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

- (i) Performance Report of the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Vavuniya for the year 2020;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat— Nuwara Eliya for the year 2020;
- (iv) Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Kurunegala for the year 2020;
- (v) Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Matara for the year 2020;
- (vi) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Badulla for the year 2020;
- (vii) Annual Performance & Accounts Report of the District Secretariat— Batticaloa for the year 2020;
- (viii) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat— Polonnaruwa for the year 2020;
- (ix) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat— Matale for the year 2020;
- (x) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Galle for the year 2020;
- (xi) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat— Ampara for the year 2020;
- (xii) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Mannar for the year 2020;

- (xiii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Hambantota for the year 2020;
- (xiv) Annual Performance & Accounts Report of the District Secretariat— Jaffna for the year 2020;
- (xv) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat— Puttalam for the year 2020;
- (xvi) Annual Performance & Accounts Report of the District Secretariat— Kilinochchi for the year 2020;
- (xvii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Mullaitivu for the year 2020;
- (xviii) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat— Kegalle for the year 2020;
- (xix) Annual Performance and Financial Report of the District Secretariat— Colombo for the year 2020; and
- (xx) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat— Kalutara for the year 2020.

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

(2) The Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation Development Related to Rural Paddy Fields for the year 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Dhamma Schools, Parivenas and Bhikku Education for the year 2020.

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

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Water Supply for the year 2020.

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

(5) The Minister of Plantation presented the Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) National Minimum Wage of Workers (Amendment) Bill;

- (ii) Annual Report of the Employees' Provident Fund for the year 2017; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for the year 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Lohan Rathwatthe, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Regulations under the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act No. 50 of 1993;
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Craft Council for the year 2018;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2017;
- (iv) Annual Report of the National Gem & Jewellery Authority for the year 2017; and
- (v) Annual Report of the National Gem & Jewellery Authority for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana presented —

- (i) a petition dated 19.03.2021 from Mr. G. K. H. Pushpakumara of “Priyanka”, Anangoda, Galle; and
- (ii) a petition dated 28.03.2021 from Ms. Shanika Madushani Samarathunga of No. 156 D, Lenagal Palatha, Uragasmanhandiya.

(2) Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera presented —

- (i) a petition dated 08.09.2020 from Mr. Gamini Liyanage of No. 51/01, Fathima Road, Mabola, Wattala; and
- (ii) a petition dated 02.12.2020 from Mr. J. K. Pererapulle of No. 34/114, Municipal Council Houses, Averiawatte Road, Wattala.

(3) Hon. S. B. Dissanayake presented —

- (i) a petition dated 28.02.2021 from Mr. Gayan Keerthisinghe of No.7/GR, New Housing Scheme, Aruppala, Kandy; and
- (ii) a petition dated 28.02.2021 from Mr. Udaya Jayasinghe of No. 97/A, Gemunu Mawatha, Panapitiya, Kaluthara.

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

Suspension of Sittings

At 11.56 a.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 12.29 p.m.

At 12.29 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

5. Resolution on the General Sir John Kotelawala National Defence University

Bill : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament resolves that, whereas the Attorney-General has expressed an opinion that the Provincial Councils be consulted as certain Clauses of the Bill entitled, General Sir John Kotelawala National Defence University relate to the matters set out in List III (Concurrent List) of the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, and whereas all the Provincial Councils stand dissolved at present, this Bill be considered and passed by Parliament in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 51(1) of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. General Sir John Kotelawala National Defence University Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Policies & Plan Implementation, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.00 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.20 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Regional Co-operation moved,—That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.15 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Highways moved,— That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

The debate stood adjourned; debate to be continued on a future date.

7. Regulations under the Immigrants and Emigrants Act : The Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Policies & Plan Implementation, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Defence under Section 52, read with Section 23 of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, (Chapter 351) for rescinding the Immigrants and Emigrants Regulations published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2126/13 of 03rd June 2019, which were presented on 23.06.2021, be approved.

The Minister of Highways moved,— That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

The debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on a future date.

8. Adjournment (Release of Funds Allocated for NHDA Housing Project) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.40 p.m. 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 Friday, July 09, 2021.