



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 89.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, August 05, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

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

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

- Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna**, State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection
- Hon. Ajith Nivard Cabraal**, State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms
- Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa**, State Minister of Urban Development, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
- Hon. D. V. Chanaka**, State Minister of Aviation and Export Zones Development
- Hon. Piyankara 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 Coast Conservation & Low-Lying Lands Development
- Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects 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. 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. 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. Amarakeerthi 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. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Naseer Ahamed**
- 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. K. P. S. Kumarasiri**
- Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar**
- Hon. Velu Kumar**
- Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku**
- Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda**

Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. 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. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
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. 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 Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika 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.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
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 Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation for the year 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Electricity Board for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) 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. 2234/19 of 30th June 2021;
- (ii) 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. 2234/20 of 30th June 2021;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2234/49 of 02nd July 2021; and
- (iv) 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. 2235/22 of 06th July 2021

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the State Ministry of Company Estate Reforms, Tea and Rubber Estates Related Crops Cultivation and Factories Modernization and Tea and Rubber Export Promotion for the year 2020.

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

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda presented a petition dated 08.03.2021 from Mr. K. Hemapala of No.1000/12, 3rd Cross Road, Gonawatta, Malabe.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya presented a petition dated 09.04.2021 from Ms. B. G. Kirani Chinthani Perera of No. 95, Ferguson Road, Colombo 14.

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

3. Petroleum Resources : The Minister of Foreign on behalf of the Minister of Energy presented,—“Bill to provide for, the establishment of the Petroleum Development Authority of Sri Lanka; the formulation of a National Policy on Upstream Petroleum Industry and Regulation and management structure capturing the maximum Economic value of Domestic Petroleum Resources through Modern Exploration, Development, Production and Management practices in Sri Lanka; to repeal the Petroleum Resources Act, No. 26 of 2003; and to provide for matters connected therewith of incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Energy.

4. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Foreign 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to WelcomHotels Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2229/2 of 24th May 2021, which was presented on 06.07.2021, be approved.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.19 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

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

The State Minister of Company Estate Reforms, Tea and Rubber Estates Related Crops Cultivation and Factories Modernization and Tea and Rubber Export Promotion moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.28 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 4.18 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Foreign 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to Avic International Hotels Lanka Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2229/3 of 24th May 2021, which was presented on 06.07.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 3) : The Minister of Foreign 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2224/2 of 19th April 2021 and amended under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2235/15 of 06th July 2021, which was presented on 19.07.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Supplementary Sum— Head 441— Programme 01 & 02 : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Health moved,— † That this Parliament resolves that a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees eleven thousand eight hundred and forty-three and decimal seven million (Rs. 11,843,700,000) should be paid from the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or any other government owned fund or currency or any loan obtained by the Government at the discretion of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the benefit of the financial year beginning 01st January, 2021 and ending 31st December, 2021 and that the amount should be spent as per the schedule given here:—

SCHEDULE

Head 441 — State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control.

Programme 01—

Operational programme

Recurrent Expenditure	Rs.	115,700,000
Capital Expenditure	Rs.	19,000,000

Programme 02—

Development programme

Recurrent Expenditure	Rs.	11,455,000,000
Capital Expenditure	Rs.	254,000,000

Recurrent Expenditure Rs. 11,570,700,000

Capital Expenditure Rs. 273,000,000

Total Rs. 11,843,700,000

(Eleven thousand eight hundred and forty-three and decimal seven million rupees)

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 2 of 2021 presented on 19th July, 2021. Supplementary Estimate No.1 Total Rs. 200,000,000,000.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Activities of Financial Crime Investigation Division) : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.14 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.35 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, August 06, 2021.