



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 91.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, August 17, 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 Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Education 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, Foreign Minister

Hon. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

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 State Minister of Community Police Services

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
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. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Niroschan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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 Parliament that I have received the Determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill titled ‘Finance’ which had been challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has examined all the provisions of the Bill and determined upon the suggested amendments to Clauses 4(1), 5(1), 5(2), 5(3), 5(4), 5(5), 6(1), 7(1), 12(b) 13(1), 14 and 20 and deletion of Clause 17 in its entirety being effected, neither the Bill nor any of the Clauses are inconsistent with the Constitution.

In the circumstances, if the aforementioned Clauses of the the Bill are amended as mentioned in the Determination of the Supreme Court, the Bill can be passed by a simple majority in Parliament.

I order that the Determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s Proceedings.”

II

“I wish to inform that I have under the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled ‘National Minimum Wage of Workers (Amendment)’ on 16th August 2021.”

III

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of the petition filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Private Members’ Bill entitled ‘Human Rights Organization (Incorporation)’ ”.

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

- (i) Fourth Installment – Part XV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (ii) First Installment – Parts XXVII and XXVIII, Fourth Installment – Part XIII and Sixth Installment – Parts XXIV and XXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Eighth Installment – Part IV of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation on the Efficiency of Wastewater Management in Sri Lanka; and

(ii) Eighth Installment – Part V of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Progress of Implementation of MARPOL Convention Executing in Sri Lanka for Preventing Marine Pollution by Ships in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of Sri Lanka Customs for the year 2020.

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

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to Degrees awarded by the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (Guarantee) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2216/39 of 27th February 2021.

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Fisheries for the year 2020.

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

(6) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Industrial Development Board of Ceylon for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) 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. 2231/16 of 11th June 2021;
- (ii) 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. 2231/17 of 11th June 2021; and
- (iii) 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. 2231/18 of 11th June 2021

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2020.

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

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Notification under the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52);
- (ii) Orders under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989;
- (iii) Orders under the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007;
- (iv) Order under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017;
- (v) Orders under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011;
- (vi) Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017; and
- (vii) Resolutions under the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235)

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Douglas Devananda, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report & Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency for the year 2018; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Central Environmental Authority for the year 2017; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Environmental Authority for the year 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(4) Hon. M. U. M. Ali Sabry, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid – 19)(Temporary Provisions) Bill;
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Authority for Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses for the year 2018;

- (iii) Annual Report of the National Authority for Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses for the year 2019; and
- (iv) Annual Report of the Superior Courts Complex Board of Management 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. Tissa Attanayake presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 21.06.2021 from Mrs. L. A. Somalatha Kanthi of No. 213, Ihala Ellewewa, Ellewewa, Polonnaruwa; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 10.05.2021 from Mr. M. Y. M. Sakeer of No. 206/5, Wiswike Road, Mattakkuliya, Colombo 15.
- (2) Hon. Anura Dissanayaka presented a petition dated 08.06.2021 from Mrs. P. G. A. T. Champika of No. 272/2, Sahabandu Watte, Kavudawatte, Kurunegalle.
- (3) Hon. Uddika Premarathne presented a petition dated 05.04.2021 from Mr. W. R. Jeewakarathne of Samadi Mawatha, Aluthwatte, Maradankadawala, Horowupothana.
- (4) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 07.07.2021 from Mr. E. D. Somarathne of No. 142, Rajamaha Vihara Road, Alawala, Veyangoda.
- (5) Hon. Madhura Withanage presented a petition dated 03.05.2021 from Mr. Priyantha Udaya Kumara of No. 43, 5/1, Peterson Road, Wellawatta, Colombo 06.
- (6) Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena presented a petition dated 02.07.2021 from Mrs. H. Dammika Pemananda of No. 26, Seethalena Mawatha, Colombo Road, Avissawella.

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

5. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the Parliament shall sit on Monday, September 06th, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : 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 Monday, September 06th, 2021 shall be 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.. At 4.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Questions for Oral Answers appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at the Sitting of Parliament on Monday, September 06th, 2021 from the provisions of the Standing Order 35 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Committee on Parliamentary Business : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 115 of the Parliament and the Resolution adopted by Parliament on 27th August 2020, the Committee on Parliamentary Business shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip and Twenty-one (21) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the First Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Monday, September 06th, 2021.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) (Temporary Provisions) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 12.13 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.24 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 4.03 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice 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.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 8 and 9, in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“period prescribed by law for such purpose and subject to the provisions of section 9, the period within which such person”;

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 23 and 24, in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“of the Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Rules, 2020 published in the *Gazette*”;

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 3 and 4, in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“the Constitution within the period of operation of this Act, granting any exclusion of time period as a”;

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 3

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out line 27 in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“or matter have been concluded before such court of first ”;

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out line 31, in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“(1) may, by the presiding Judge of the alternative court,”;

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out line 8, in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“or matter have been concluded before such alternative”;

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 4

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out line 13, in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“4. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other”;

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 22 to 24 (both inclusive) in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“a remote communication technology.

(2) The provision of-

- (a) the Supreme Court (Electronic Filing and Urgent Digital Virtual Hearings) (Special Provisions) Rules, 2021 published in the *Gazette* extraordinary No. 2212/54 of January 29, 2021;
- (b) the Court of Appeal (Electronic Filing and Urgent Digital Virtual Hearings) (Special Provisions) Rules, 2021 published in the *Gazette* extraordinary No. 2216/8 of February 23, 2021; and
- (c) any other Supreme Court Rule or Court of Appeal Rule as may be made under Article 136 of the Constitution within the period of operation of this Act, in relation to conducting of court proceedings using remote communication technology,

shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the extent possible, in relation to any action, application, appeal or proceeding conducted before any court of first instance under subsection (1).”;

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 and 2, in page 5.

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

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 3 to 6 (both inclusive), in page 5.

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 6

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 7 to 34 (both inclusive), in page 5.

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 5 (both inclusive), in page 6.

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 Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 to 31 (both inclusive), in page 6.

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 33 (both inclusive), in page 7.

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 15 (both inclusive), in page 8.

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 Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 16 to 21 (both inclusive), in page 8.

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out line 22, in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“PART IV”;

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 9

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 24 and 25, in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“9. Any period excluded as a relief under section 2 of this Act shall not exceed a”;

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 5 (both inclusive), in page 9.

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 10

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 to 11 (both inclusive), in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“10. The burden of proof of that the inability to comply with the prescribed time periods for the purpose of section 2”;

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 11

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 15 to 30 (both inclusive), in page 9.

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 12

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out lines 2 to 4 (both inclusive), in page 10.

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 13 to 26 (both inclusive), in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“(a) Covid-19; or

(b) any other circumstance arising out of or consequential to the circumstances referred to in paragraph (a);”;

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 29 and 30, in page 10.

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

The Minister of Justice proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 4 (both inclusive), in page 11.

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 13 was agreed to.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out the FIRST SCHEDULE, in pages 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

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

Question that the FIRST SCHEDULE as amended, be left out of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Long title

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to leave out the following words, in page 1:—

“TO GRANT RELIEF IN RELATION TO PARTIES TO CERTAIN
CONTRACTS WHO WERE UNABLE TO PERFORM
CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS DUE TO COVID-19
CIRCUMSTANCES”

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

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

New Clauses

The Minister of Justice proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 14 :—

“Guidelines,
&c on any
Covid 19
circumstance
to be
considered
prima facie
evidence

11. (1) Any guideline, direction, circular, notice or decision whether in the printed or electronic form, made by the Government in relation to any Covid 19 circumstance shall be admissible as *prima facie* evidence in any action, application, appeal or other legal proceeding instituted or made under this Act, without further proof.

(2) Where a party to such action, application, appeal or other legal proceeding disputes the admissibility of such guideline, direction, circular, notice or decision as evidence, the burden of proof shall be on the party who disputes such admissibility.

(3) For the purpose of this section, “Government” means any proper authority as defined in any regulation made under the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance (Chapter 222) in relation to Covid-19.”.

Question that the Clause be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Question that the Clause be added to 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 Justice 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.

11. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No.1) : The Minister of Justice on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3C of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989, as amended, relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2222/2 of 05th April 2021, which was presented on 03.08.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No.2) : The Minister of Justice on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989, as amended, relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2224/24 of 22nd April 2021, which was presented on 03.08.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance (No.1) : The Minister of Justice on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 04.08.2021, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2224/25 of 22nd April 2021)

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance (No.2) : The Minister of Justice on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 04.08.2021, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2228/2 of 17th May 2021)

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Select Committee of Parliament to consider the government business presented to Parliament by the public institutions that do not come under the purview of the existing Ministries : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to consider the government business presented to Parliament by the public institutions that do not come under the purview of the existing Ministries;

2. (a) the Hon. Prime Minister shall be the Chair of the Committee.
- (b) the Committee shall consists of five (5) Members nominated by the Committee of Selection.
- (c) the function of the Committee shall be Consideration of matters referred to the Committee by Parliament.
- (d) other than the aforesaid members, any other Member of Parliament may participate in the meetings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair of the Committee.

- (e) the Committee shall meet as per the necessity arises and report the relevant matters to Parliament as soon as convenient.
 - (f) the meetings of the Committee shall be summoned in consultation with the Secretary to the Prime Minister.
3. That the Committee shall have the power to,—
- (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) summon before it and question any person, call for any paper, books, records or other documents; and
 - (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Adjournment : And it being past 4.30 p.m. Parliament was at 4.59 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Monday, September 06, 2021 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.