



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 98.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, October 06, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Mass Media

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

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

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports, Minister of Development Co-ordination and Monitoring and State Minister of Digital Technology and Enterprise Development

Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Power

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 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. (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. 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. 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. (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. 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. 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. 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
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- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- 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. 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. 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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal 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. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
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. 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. 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. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

Hon. Abdul Haleem

Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. H. M. M. Harees

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Jayarathna Herath

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. Marjan Faleel

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 Speaker presented the—

- (i) Fourth Instalment – Part XIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019; and
- (ii) First Instalment – Part I of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020

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 Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the Department for Registration of Persons for the year 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Reports and Accounts of the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

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

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Justice presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of the Law Commission for the year 2020.

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

2. 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) Employees' Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Regulations under section 46 of the Employees' Provident Fund Act, No. 15 of 1958;
- (iii) Regulations under section 31 read with section 20A of the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, No. 47 of 1956;
- (iv) Annual Report & Accounts of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for the year 2015;
- (v) Annual Report & Accounts of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for the year 2017; and
- (vi) Annual Report of the National Institute of Labour Studies for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana, Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the Second Report of the Committee on Public Accounts for the First Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Hector Appuhamy presented a petition dated 04.05.2021 from Mr. N. C. S. P. Mendis of Puranagama, Kottukachchiya.
- (2) Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 21.05.2021 from Mrs. H. G. Rasika Priyangani Kumari of No. 157/2, Thalawatte, Peradeniya;
 - (ii) a petition dated 21.05.2021 from Mrs. H. M. I. Lakshika Wijerathne of No. 04, Waduwhena, Naranpanawa;
 - (iii) a petition dated 21.05.2021 from Mrs. N. E. M. Indrani Ekanayake of No. 92/3, Megoda Kalugamuwa, Peradeniya;
 - (iv) a petition dated 19.04.2021 from Mrs. N. W. Niranjala Harshani Nagahapitiya of No. 61, Walgownagoda, Danthure;

- (v) a petition dated 21.05.2021 from Mrs. R. A. E. Indumathi Ranasinghe of No. 59, Meddegoda, Haliyadde, Danthure;
- (vi) a petition dated 21.05.2021 from Mrs. S. A. Nilmini Ashoka of No. 36/1, Thalathuoya Road, Athulgama;
- (vii) a petition dated 21.05.2021 from Mrs. U. P. K. K. Thumali Nawarathne of No. 56, Pallegama, Panwila; and
- (viii) a petition dated 21.05.2021 from Mrs. W. M. Geethani Chandrika Wickremasinghe of No. 109 A, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya.

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

4. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1) : Hon. Buddhika Pathirana seconded by Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Samadhi Health Service, Environment, Agricultural, Cultural and Sport Centre.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Education for report.

5. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2) : Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero seconded by Hon. Buddhika Pathirana moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Kelaniya Buddhist Women’s Charitable Society.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs for report.

6. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 3) : Hon. Nalin Fernando seconded by Hon. Buddhika Pathirana moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Nalin Fernando Foundation.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Health for report.

7. Petroleum Resources Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

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

(At 1.30 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.54 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

The Minister of Energy moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.18 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The Minister of Energy moved,— That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.37 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

(At 4.24 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Energy moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into a Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Clause 5

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

“achieved eminence in the fields of law, finance,
geology, petroleum industry, management or
economics, whose qualifications shall be
prescribed.”.

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.

Clauses 6 to 52 were 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 Energy 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.

8. Adjournment (Reform of Existing Prison System and Related Rules and Regulations): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Justice moved,— That Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.40 p.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.34 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 Thursday, October 07, 2021.