



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 99.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, October 07, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Mass Media

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. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Power

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

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. 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. 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. Piyankara Jayaratne**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification
- Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara**, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products
- Hon. Jeevan Thondaman**, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure
- 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. 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. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion
- 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 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. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala**
- Hon. Sampath Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya**
- 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. 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. K. P. S. Kumarasiri**
- Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar**
- Hon. Velu Kumar**

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
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. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
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. 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. 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. 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. Gamini Waleboda
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. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
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. 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 Wildlife & Forest Conservation presented the Order made by the State Minister of Wildlife Protection, Adoption of Safety Measures including the Construction of Electrical Fences and Trenches and Reforestation and Forest Resource Development under Section 2(2) of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2222/62 of 09th April 2021 and moved that the Order be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife & Forest Conservation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Export Agriculture 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 Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth & Sports.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Johnston Fernando, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Chair of the 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 presented the Report of the said Select Committee of Parliament on Registration of Electors (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the said 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 Third 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 :

Hon. Sudath Manjula presented a petition dated 29.06.2021 from Mrs. Y. Susila Padmini of No. H/18/1, Lewangama, Ruwanwella.

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

4. Appropriation : The Minister of Finance presented,— “Bill to provide for the service of the financial year 2022; to authorize the raising of loans in or outside Sri Lanka, for the purpose of such service; to make financial provision in respect of certain activities of the Government during that financial year; to enable the payment by way of advances out of the Consolidated Fund or any other fund or moneys, of or at the disposal of the Government, of moneys required during that financial year for expenditure on such activities; to provide for the refund of such moneys to the Consolidated Fund and to make provision for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Friday, November 12, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

5. Youthful Offenders (Training Schools) (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice presented,— “Bill to amend the Youthful Offenders (Training Schools) Ordinance (Chapter 25).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, October 21, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice.

6. Penal Code (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice presented,— “Bill to amend the Penal Code (Chapter 19).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, October 21, 2021, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice.

7. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1) : Hon. Velu Kumar seconded by Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the UnV 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.

8. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2) : Hon. Imran Maharoof seconded by Hon. Nalin Fernando moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Akurana Baithuz Zakath.”

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.

9. Registration of Electors (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education 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 11.35 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna seconded by Hon. Velu Kumar moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

(At 4.19 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 a Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed an amendment to leave out lines 3 and 4, in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“Short title and the date of operation	1. This Act may be cited as the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Act, No. of 2021 and shall come into operation on February 1, 2022.”
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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 2 to 4 were agreed to.

Clause 5

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed an amendment to leave out line 25, in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“which the qualified address of such person in terms of subsection
(2) of section 4 is situated.”

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

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed another amendment to leave out lines 26 to 33 (both inclusive), in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“(3) Every qualified person to be registered as an elector under subsection (1) shall make such application to the registering officer of the electoral district in which the qualified address of such person in terms of subsection (2) of section 4 is situated, along with the following documents:-

- (a) a copy of the birth certificate of such person; or
- (b) a copy of the National Identity Card of such person.”

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

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 3 (both inclusive), in page 3.

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

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed another amendment to leave out lines 20 to 23 (both inclusive), in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“(8) any provisions of this Act relating to determination of claims and objections shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to any claims and objections under this section.”

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

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed another amendment to leave out lines 29 to 30, in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“the supplementary lists shall be known as the certified supplementary register and be attached as an annexure to the electoral register for that electoral district.”

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

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed another amendment to insert the following new subsection immediately after line 30, in page 4:—

“(10) Upon the certification of any supplementary register under subsection (9) of section 20A, the registering officer shall give notice in the *Gazette* and in at least one newspaper in each of the National Languages that the register has been certified.

(11) The certified supplementary register for any electoral district shall come into operation on the date of the publication in the *Gazette* of the notice referred to in subsection 10 and subject to such alterations if any, as may subsequently be made therein in accordance with subsection (4) of section 15 or section 18, such certified supplementary register shall continue to be in operation until superseded by the coming into operation of the next certified register.”

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

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 7 (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 was agreed to.

New Clauses

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed an amendment to insert the following new section immediately after line 24, in page 1:—

“Amendment of section 13 of the principal enactment	5. Section 13 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section by the substitution for the words “thirty-first day of January” of the words “thirtieth of September”.
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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.

The Minister of Justice 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 proposed another amendment to insert the following new sections immediately after line 7, in page 5:—

“Insertion of section 24A.

7. The following new Section is hereby inserted immediately after section 24, and shall have effect as section 24A of the principal enactment :-

“Power of Election Commission to issue directions.

24A. The Election Commission may issue such directions as it may consider necessary, to provide for any difficulty or unforeseen circumstances or for the determination or adjustment of any question or matter in relation to the registration of electors under this Act.

Amendment of section 29 of the principal enactment

8. Section 29 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in the definition of the expression of “register of electors” by the substitution for the words “for any electoral district;” of the words “including the certified supplementary register prepared under section 20A for any electoral district.

Amendment of the Schedule to the principal enactment.

9. The schedule to the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

- (1) in terms (2), (3) and (5) (ii) of form A of the Schedule by the substitution for the words and figures “June 1, 19..” of the words and figures of “February 1, 20..”
- (2) in subsections (2), (3) and (5) (ii) of form B of the Schedule by the substitution for the words and figures “June 1, 19..” of the words and figures of “February 1, 20..”.

Supplementary list for a specified period.

10. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3, any person who attains the age of eighteen years on any date within the period from the first day of June 2021 to the date of commencement of this Act shall be qualified to have such person’s name entered or retained in the register of electors as an elector and every such person shall apply for registration to the registering officer of the electoral district in which the qualified address of such person in terms of subsection (2) of section 4 is situated along with the documents specified in subsection (3) of section 20A.

(2) Every registering officer shall make a supplementary list for the purpose of subsection (1) and shall *mutatis mutandis* apply the procedure specified in subsections (5) to (11) of section 20A for the preparation of the supplementary list.”

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

Question that the Clauses 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.

10. Employees' Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Labour 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 3 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 without Amendments.

The Minister of Labour moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

11. Order under the Employees' Provident Fund Act : The Minister of Labour moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Labour under Section 46, read with Section 8 of the Employees' Provident Fund Act No. 15 of 1958, which was presented on 21.09.2021, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Adjournment (Independent Body to Safeguard Ownership Rights of Artistes): The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.05 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.55 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, October 08, 2021.