



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 85.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, July 19, 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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

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. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

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 State Minister of Community Police Services

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation

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. 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. 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. (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. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion

Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government

- 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. 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. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

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. Tiran Alles
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 Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
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. (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. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
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. 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. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
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. 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. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
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. 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. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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 announcement:—

“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 certificates on the Bills entitled ‘Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment)’ and ‘Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Amendment)’ on 15 July 2021.”

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 2018; and
- (ii) First Installment – Parts XXV and XXVI, Fourth Installment – Part XII and Sixth Installment – Parts XX, XXI, XXII and XXIII 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 Eighth Installment – Part II of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Performance of the Programme for Granting Concessionary Loans to Small and Medium Scale Rice Millers in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

(3) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Second Installment – Part XXXII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018; and
- (ii) Second Installment – Part XXIII and Ninth Installment – Part XVI 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.

(4) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Eighth Installment – Part III of the Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation of Real Estate Management Assigned to the Public Trustee; and
- (ii) Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Public Representation Received to the National Audit Office during the period from 01st August 2019 to 31st July 2020 and Its Current Situation

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.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the—

- (i) Annual Reports of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka for the years 2018 and 2019; and

- (ii) 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.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

- (6) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the Superior Court (Judges of the Superior Court) — Head 04 for the year 2019.

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

- (7) The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Health presented the Supplementary Estimate 2021 and moved that the Supplementary Estimate be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (8) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish, Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multiday Fishing Activities and Fish Exports for the year 2020.

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

- (9) The Minister of Trade presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Co-operative Development—Polgolla for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (10) The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation presented the Annual Reports of the State Timber Corporation for the years 2017 and 2018 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife & Forest Conservation.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (11) The Minister of Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Independent Television Network Ltd for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (12) The Minister of Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Department of Posts for the year 2020.

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

(13) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(14) The Minister of Highways presented the Mid — Year Fiscal Position Report of the Ministry of Finance for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(15) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the State Ministry of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandry & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation for the year 2020.

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

(16) The Minister of Ports & Shipping presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Warehouse Facilities, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats & Shipping Industry Development for the year 2020.

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

(17) The Minister of Justice presented the Performance Report of the Department of the Registrar of the Supreme Court—Head 234 for the year 2019.

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

(18) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the National Youth Services Council for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth & Sports.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella presented —

- (i) a petition dated 05.03.2021 from Mrs. P.G. Ramani Pushpalatha of No. 49/1, Mahawatta North, Kundasale; and
- (ii) a petition dated 18.09.2020 from Mr. P. M. Lionel of No. 9/D, Widuruge Watta, Warapitiya, Kundasale.

(2) Hon. Anupa Pasqual presented a petition dated 01.03.2021 from Ms. A. Tharika Gimhani of Handapamulla, Meegama, Dharga Town.

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

4. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Samanpriya Herath seconded by Hon. D. Weerasingha moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Milco Milk Producers’ 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 Agriculture for report.

5. Vote of No Confidence in the Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy : The Hon. S. M. Marikkar seconded by the Hon. Kabir Hashim moved,— Whereas the Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy, has taken action to raise fuel prices without the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers as stated in writing by the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, which is the main party representing the Government, although the Cabinet of Ministers is collectively responsible and answerable to Parliament in terms of Article 43 (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka;

And whereas has derogated from the principles guiding the state policy in contravention of Article 27 (1) of the Constitution and shirked the fundamental duties in contravention of Article 28 of the Constitution, thereby breaking the oath taken in terms of Article 53 of the Constitution;

And whereas has not informed Parliament and people of this country of the profit which the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and the Government earned by not reducing prices of petroleum fuels but keeping the prices at a high level since January 2020, when petroleum prices fell excessively in the world market, up until now;

And whereas has not fulfilled the pledge given to people that the advantage of the falling prices of petroleum fuels in the world market will be given to people by reducing the prices of essential goods;

And whereas has not kept to the pledge given not to raise fuel prices within two years based on such price advantage;

And whereas has failed to inform this Parliament and people what happened to the Fuel Price Stabilization Fund, claimed to have been established by the Government to use the advantage of falling prices when oil prices rise;

And whereas has not fulfilled the pledge given to use the profit earned by the Government when prices were falling to rescue the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation from its indebtedness to state banks;

And whereas has through the raising of fuel prices, led to the rise of production cost in all consumer goods parallel to it and the accompanying escalation of inflation, thereby placing people affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic in further suffering economically;

And whereas has led to the possible adverse effects on exports and the overall economy due to the escalation of production cost;

And whereas has failed to fulfill promises given from time to time by directly and indirectly contravening the people's agenda given in being elected to the Government, the policies of the Government and the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka;

That this Parliament resolves that it has no confidence in the competence of Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy to function as a Cabinet Minister any longer.

(At 12.01 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Industries moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair. Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.22 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

The Minister of Agriculture moved,— That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.15 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.23 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

And it being 5.30 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

6. Adjournment : And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 09th July, 2021.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.