



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 10.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 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. 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 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. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

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

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

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. 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. 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. 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. Lohan Ratwatte**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries
- 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
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- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Kapila Athukorala**
- Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha 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. M. Udayakumar**
- Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**
- Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda**
- Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna**
- Hon. Lalith Ellawala**
- Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren**
- Hon. Govindan Karunakaram**
- Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka**
- Hon. Faizal Cassim**

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
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. Asanka Navarathna
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. Arundika Fernando
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha
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. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
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.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
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. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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:—

“The final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry to Investigate and Report on the bomb attacks that took place on 21 April 2019 and to take necessary action was tabled in Parliament on 25.02.2021 in Sinhala and English languages with special leave of the House, and 87 volumes of the witness records of the aforesaid Commission were handed over to me on 22.02.2022, and accordingly, I wish to inform this August Assembly that necessary action will be taken to keep the following reports in the Library of Parliament for the use of the Members of Parliament :

Volume 2-I – Open evidence, from A to W;

Volume 2-II – in camera evidence, from A to D;

Volume 2-III – Partly open, partly in camera evidence, from A to L;

Volume 3 – Documents that have been marked as ‘C’ relating to evidence, from 3-I to 3-XVIII-C;

Volume 4 – Documents that have been marked as ‘X’ relating to evidence, from 4-I to 4-VI; and

Volume 5 – Documents that have been marked by each witness relating to evidence, from 5-I to 5-VII.”

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

- (i) Ninth Instalment – Part XVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2015;
- (ii) Second Instalment – Part XXIX and Ninth Instalment – Part XXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;
- (iii) Ninth Instalment – Part XXIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (iv) Second Instalment – Parts XXXVI and XXXVII and Ninth Instalment – Part XXIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018;
- (v) Second Instalment – Part XXXII and Ninth Instalment – Parts XXIII, XXIV and XXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019; and
- (vi) Second Instalment – Parts XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII and XXIII, Third Instalment – Parts XI, XII and XIII and Ninth Instalment – Parts VIII, IX and X 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 Annual Report of the National Building Research Organization for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2268/3 of 21st February 2022 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979.

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

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority for the years 2016 and 2017 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Industries presented the Annual Report of the BCC Lanka Limited for the year 2018/2019 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 Annual Reports of the GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Limited for the years 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament :

The Minister of Education presented the Report under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament on the Bill entitled “Sisira Jayakody Siyapatha Foundation (Incorporation)”.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, February 24, 2022.

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya presented a petition dated 15.11.2021 from Mr. G. M. C. H. Gunasena of No. D 113, Kurunegoda, Kotiyakumbura.
- (2) Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage presented a petition dated 08.10.2021 from Mrs. S. Sunethra Hemamali of Galauda Niwasa, Arawa, Meegahakiula, Badulla.

- (3) Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne presented a petition dated 07.10.2021 from Mr. J. D. Upasena of Hunukotuwa Road, Kahatapitiya, Kananwila, Horana.
- (4) Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara presented a petition dated 18.11.2021 from Mrs. P. P. Nilmini Pushpalatha of No. 57, Ambagasthanna, Gondeniya, Manikdiwela.

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

5. Motions for Leave of Absence : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, Member of Parliament for Polonnaruwa Electoral District be granted leave under Article 66(f) of the Constitution, to be absent from the sittings of Parliament for a period of three months from February 23, 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Intellectual Property (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Trade presented,—“Bill to amend the Intellectual Property Act, No. 36 of 2003.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, March 08, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade.

7. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 19th January 2022, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 11.00 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (A Programme to Resolve the Present Crisis Situation and Provide Relief to the People) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 11.32 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The State Minister of Rural Roads and other Infrastructure moved,—That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.26 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

The 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 moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.42 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan took the Chair.)

And notice being taken that a Quorum was not present, Parliament was counted and a Quorum not being present, Parliament was at 5.27 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, under Standing Order 11 of the Parliament until 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2022.