



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 16.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, March 11, 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Mass Media

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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation, State Minister of Defence and State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Energy

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. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister of Urban Development, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

- 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. 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 and State Minister of Warehouse Facilities, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats and Shipping Industry Development
- 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. Janaka Wakkumbura**, State Minister of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion
- Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera**, 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. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Material Industries

Hon. Kapila 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. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
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. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoo
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
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. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. Chandima Weerakkody

Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

Hon. H. M. M. Harees

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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 : The Minister of Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Independent Television Network Ltd for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Anura Dissanayaka presented —

- (i) a petition dated 19.01.2022 from Mr. A. K. Boyagoda of No. 23, Rathnarama Road, Abeyrathna Mawatha, Boraesgamuwa;
- (ii) a petition dated 06.12.2021 from Mr. M. A. Quintus Anthony Pillay of No. 26, Second lane, Rawathawatta, Moratuwa; and
- (iii) a petition dated 07.12.2021 from Mr. S. M. G. M. Senanayake of No. 44/6, Kuruduwatta, Imbulgasdeniya.

(2) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —

- (i) a petition dated 01.02.2022 from Mr. K. L. Amarasena of No. 630, Nakuttiyagama, Kekunadura, Matara;

- (ii) a petition dated 07.01.2022 from Mrs. L. P. Nishanthi of No. 307/2, Sri Gunananda Nahimi Mawatha, Puwakgahahena, Meegoda;
 - (iii) a petition dated 05.01.2022 from Mrs. M. M. Rathnayaka of No. 72, Udapihilla, Matale; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 24.01.2022 from Mr. Mohan Amarasinghe of “Aluth Gedara”, Liyanagoda, Habaraduwa.
- (3) Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri presented a petition dated 01.09.2021 from Mr. Dayapala Weerakoon of Hawariyamalwala, Boralanda.
- (4) Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri presented a petition dated 31.01.2022 from Mr. H. Mervin Wimalasooriya of No. 210, 3rd Lane, Yasasiripura, Anuradhapura.
- (5) Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 11.01.2022 from Mr. M. U. R. S. Jayathilaka of No. 101/A, Thoradeniya Road, Medawala, Harispaththuwa.

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

3. 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 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Business of the Parliament (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1, 2 and 3 appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day’s sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 24(2) of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Business of the Parliament (No.2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Government Business shall have precedence on this day, immediately after the proceedings of Private Members’ Motions appearing as Item Nos. 1, 2 and 3 on the Order Paper.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Formulating a programme for persons who are over the age of 60 to make them active members of the society : Hon. Buddhika Pathirana seconded by Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a methodology be adopted to create awareness in the society including the school community to formulate a programme to make the elders over the age of 60, who laboured for the social economic progress and who are now in an inactive and left out state without any recognition in the society, active members of the society. (P.1/2022)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Re-activating the local seed production process : Hon. Rohana Bandara seconded by Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a programme should be launched by the government to enhance the local seed production to prevent the local agriculture, which is already severely hit, from going into further damage as the local seed production is under the grips of foreign companies at present. (P.15/2022)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

The State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.00 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan took the Chair.)

8. Regulating Counsellors and Psychiatrists in Sri Lanka : Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna seconded by Hon. Buddhika Pathirana moved,— That this Parliament resolves that special attention should be paid towards subjecting counsellors and psychiatrists as well as diploma and certificate courses in counselling and psychiatry to proper regulation, preparing proper procedures for providing access to psychosocial services and banning transformation therapies, which are out-dated in the context of gender diversity, and a suitable programme should be implemented by the government to pave way for Sri Lankan citizens to access proper psychosocial health services, whereas it has been observed that fake counsellors and fake psychiatrists, who are not professionals and who have not received any clinical training are practicing across the country, and whereas there has been an increasing trend that those who have only obtained a diploma certificate from various institutions, without receiving any clinical training or without following professional ethics, are establishing institutes, and pretending to be professional counsellors or psychiatrists, are giving publicity through social media to attract people to their clinics. (P.21/2022)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Land Development (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

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

The State Minister of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.23 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Highways 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 Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 11 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 Highways moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

10. Adjournment : And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was 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 Tuesday, March 22, 2022.