



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 20.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, March 25, 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, Minister of Transport

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade

Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon, Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government

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

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

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. 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. Piyanara 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. 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. Tharaka Balasuriya**, State Minister of Regional Co-operation
- 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. Janaka Wakkumbura**, State Minister of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion
- Hon. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandary & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation
- Hon. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries
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- Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**
- Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**
- Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**
- Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna**
- Hon. Akila Ellawala**
- Hon. Lalith Ellawala**
- Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren**
- Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka**
- Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam**
- 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. (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. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
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. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Nalin Fernando
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. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
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. 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. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Acting Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Economic Policies & Plan Implementation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva presented a petition dated 14.01.2022 from Mr. P. S. C. Piyasinghe of No. 144/8L, Keppetipola Road, Badulla.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana presented a petition dated 11.01.2022 from Mr. K. P. Siripala of No. 102 C, Fedro Watta, Halpathota, Baddegama.

- (3) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 19.01.2022 from Mr. T. P. Vinod Ranasinghe of No. A/A/6/5, Ranpokunagana, Nittambuwa.

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

3. Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Minister of Justice presented,—“Bill to amend the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, April 05, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice.

4. Sittings of the Parliament : The Minister of Highways on behalf of 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.

5. Business of the Parliament : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 1 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Orders 22 and 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Ministerial Consultative Committees : The Minister of Highways on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the Resolution adopted by Parliament on 21st January 2022, the designation of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign shall be re-designated as “Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs” as per the decision taken by the Committee of Selection on 24th March 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Highways 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 this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2272/09 of 21st March 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, which was presented on 24.03.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Votes of Condolence : The Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Policies & Plan Implementation, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved the Votes of Condolence on the late Hon. Batty Weerakoon, the late Hon. (Miss.) K. Thangeswary, the late Hon. Justin Galappaththy and the late Hon. M. S. Sellasamy, ex-Members of Parliament.

(At 10.31 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.12 a.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala seconded by Hon. Buddhika Pathirana moved,— That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.35 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan took the Chair.)

The Presiding Member announced that the Speaker and himself associated together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of the late Hon. Batty Weerakoon, the late Hon. (Miss.) K. Thangeswary, the late Hon. Justin Galappaththy and the late Hon. M. S. Sellasamy, ex-Members of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send a copy of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of their bereaved families.

9. Adjournment : The Minister of Highways moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 3.47 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 05, 2022.