



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 11.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 24, 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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

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. (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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management and State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports, Minister of Development Co-ordination and Monitoring and State Minister of Digital Technology and Enterprise Development

Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance

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

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

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

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. 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. Piyaal Nishantha De Silva**, State Minister of Women and Child Development, Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services
- Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects 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. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas and Bhikkhu Education
- 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. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandary & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation
- 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. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
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. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
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. M. S. Thowfeek
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. (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. 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. 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. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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 Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe
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. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha 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 : (1) The Minister of Highways presented the Performance Report of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year 2020.

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

(2) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Foundation for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of Tax Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, entered in to on 28th January 2022 and moved that the Agreement be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife & Forest Conservation presented the Report of the said Committee on Fauna and Flora Protection (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Order under Section 2 of the Felling of Trees (Control) Act (Chapter 452);
- (ii) Annual Report of the Milco (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2016;
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Livestock Development Board for the year 2016;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy for the year 2018;
- (v) Annual Report of the Paddy Marketing Board for the year 2015;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Ltd for the year 2018;
- (vii) Annual Report of the Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Ltd for the year 2018/2019;
- (viii) Annual Report of the Paddy Marketing Board for the year 2017;
- (ix) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy for the year 2019;
- (x) Annual Report of the Lanka Phosphate Ltd for the year 2019/2020;
- (xi) Annual Report of the National Institute of Post Harvest Management for the year 2018; and
- (xii) Annual Report of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Namal Rajapaksa presented —

- (i) a petition dated 01.12.2021 from Mrs. G. H. M. D. Oshani Ashelika of “Wijaya Niwasa”, Galagama, Nakulugamuwa;
- (ii) a petition dated 28.10.2021 from Mr. L. A. Nishantha of No. 12/04, Labeema, Seenimodara, Nakulugamuwa; and
- (iii) a petition dated 06.10.2021 from Mr. Samarawickrama Arachchige Nimal of Minipuragama, Chithragala, Ambalanthota.

(2) Hon. Anura Dissanayaka presented —

- (i) a petition dated 05.11.2021 from Mr. A. Sundaralingam of No. 23/13, Wariyapola Watta, Matale;
- (ii) a petition dated 11.11.2021 from Mr. Denagamage Somasiri of No. 12, Victor Park, Kongahamulla, Palapathwala;
- (iii) a petition dated 10.10.2021 from Mr. K. A. D. Ranjith of No. 130/B, Kelanimulla, Mulleriyawa New Town;
- (iv) a petition dated 30.09.2021 from Mrs. P. G. A. A. Balasuriya of No. 275/1, Pelehela, Dekatana; and

- (v) a petition dated 24.11.2021 from Mr. U. W. A. Piyasiri of “Siri Sewana”, Galagama, Nakulugamuwa.
- (3) Hon. Vijitha Herath presented a petition dated 03.01.2022 from Mrs. T. A. Jeewangani of No. 09, Dhanyagama, Trincomalee.
- (4) Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala presented a petition dated 18.01.2022 from Mrs. J. A. Ranyalatha Jayasinghe Menike of 5th Post, 100 Acres Road, Hingurakdamana, Hingurakgoda.
- (5) Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene presented a petition dated 11.11.2021 from Mr. M. Sumith Narada of No. 26, Wijaya Rajadahana, Meerigama.

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

Suspension of Sittings

At 10.58 a.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 11.10 a.m.

At 11.10 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

4. Business of the Parliament : 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 Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation 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. 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, which was presented on 23.02.2022, be approved.

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

The Minister of Highways moved,—That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.27 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation moved,— That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.17 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.1) : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2256/23 of 30th November 2021, which were presented on 20.01.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.2) : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2262/16 of 11th January 2022, which were presented on 08.02.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.3) : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2262/17 of 11th January 2022, which were presented on 08.02.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.4) : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2262/18 of 11th January 2022, which were presented on 08.02.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.5) : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Section 4 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2262/34 of 13th January 2022, which were presented on 08.02.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation 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 Order made by the Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2254/2 of 15th November 2021, which was presented on 20.01.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Fauna and Flora Protection (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation 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 4 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 Wildlife & Forest Conservation moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

13. Order under the Felling of Trees (Control) Act : The Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Agriculture under Section 2 of the Felling of Trees (Control) Act (Chapter 452) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2232/33 of 18th June 2021, which was presented on 20.01.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Adjournment (Issues Faced by Dairy Farmers Due to Shortage of Pastures) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022.