



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 12.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

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

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Deputy Speaker and the Chair 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. 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. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

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

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. Dayasiri Jayasekara**, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products
- Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva**, State Minister of Women and Child Development, Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services
- 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. 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. Jayantha Samaraweera**, State Minister of Warehouse Facilities, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats and Shipping Industry 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. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**
- Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**
- Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna**
- Hon. Lalith Ellawala**
- Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren**

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
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. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
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. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera

Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
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. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
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. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Jayarathna 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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of four petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Surcharge Tax’.”

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

- (i) Fourth Instalment – Parts XIX and XX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018;
- (ii) First Instalment – Parts XXIX and XXX and Fourth Instalment – Parts XIX, XX and XXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019; and
- (iii) First Instalment – Parts XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX and XXXI and Fourth Instalment – Parts X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV and XV 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 Speaker presented the—

- (i) Eighth Instalment – Part VII – 2021 of the Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Performance Audit on the Process of Leasing & Control of Government Lands Relating to Mining Minerals (Stone) in Hambantota, Anuradhapura, Vavunia and Kurunegala Districts and Recovery of Royalty;

- (ii) Eighth Instalment – Part I – 2022 of the Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluating the Legal Mechanism and Its Functionality of Ground Water Management in Sri Lanka;
- (iii) Eighth Instalment – Part II – 2022 of the Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Performance Report on Improving Road Accessibility between Rural Community and Socio-Economic Centres under the Integrated Road Investment Programme; and
- (iv) Eighth Instalment – Part III – 2022 of the Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluate the Process of Developing New Renewable Energy Sources

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.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. S. M. Chandrasena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Lands presented the Report of the said Committee on Land Development (Amendment) Bill, which was referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya presented a petition dated 26.11.2021 from Mr. Henagedara Rathnawansa of No. D/28/1, Miriswalathanna, Kithulgala.
- (2) Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 27.07.2021 from Mr. Asuramuni Darshana Fonseka of “Aruna”, Sri Dheerananda Mawatha, Maha Waskaduwa, Waskaduwa; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 26.10.2021 from Mr. M. B. de S. Jayathilaka of No. 63/T/1, Kalalgoda Road, Pannipitiya.
- (3) Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha presented a petition dated 26.01.2021 from Mr. M. N. Muthunayake of 4th Milestone, Wee Oya, Yatiyanthota.
- (4) Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi presented a petition dated 24.01.2022 from Mrs. P. Somawathie Dabare of No. 12, First Lane, Old Kesbawa Road, Gangodawila, Nugegoda.

(5) Hon. Milan Jayathilake presented —

- (i) a petition dated 04.01.2022 from Mrs. A. L. S. Padmini of No. 56/3, Brandigampala, Waga; and
- (ii) a petition dated 17.12.2021 from Mrs. M. Gabona of No. 125, Siriya Mawatha, Meddegama, Kirindiwela.

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

5. 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.

6. 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. Ananda Ratnayake, the late Hon. R. R.W. Rajapakshe, the late Hon. Somaweera Chandrasiri, the late Hon. P. B. Dissanayake and the late Hon. H. R. Mithrapala, ex-Members of Parliament.

(At 11.14 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri seconded by Hon. Harin Fernando moved,— That Hon. Shantha Bandara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Shantha Bandara took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.27 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan took the Chair.)

(At 3.58 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

The Speaker announced that he associated himself together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of the late Hon. Ananda Ratnayake, the late Hon. R. R.W. Rajapakshe, the late Hon. Somaweera Chandrasiri, the late Hon. P. B. Dissanayake and the late Hon. H. R. Mithrapala, 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.

7. Adjournment : The Minister of Labour moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.11 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 08, 2022.