



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 24.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, April 08, 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. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Education and Leader of the House of Parliament

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

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

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

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. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Aviation and Export Zones Development

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. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Women and Child Development, Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, State Minister of Coast Conservation & Low-Lying Lands Development

Hon. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Rural and Divisional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Regional Co-operation

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. Chamal Rajapaksa**, State Minister of Defence and State Minister of Home Affairs
- 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
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- Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**
- Hon. Kapila Athukorala**
- Hon. Sampath Athukorala**
- Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala**
- Hon. Tissa Attanayake**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**
- Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya**
- Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**
- Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**
- Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna**
- Hon. Tiran Alles**
- Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma**
- Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage**
- Hon. Naseer Ahamed**
- Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**

Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
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. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyanara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Douglas Devananda
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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
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. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
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. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula

Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
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.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
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. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
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. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha 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 announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that in terms of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled ‘Surcharge Tax’ on today, the 08th April 2022.”

II

“A motion may be moved to refer the questions of privilege raised in Parliament by the Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda, MP on 10th March 2022, to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka for the year 2019.

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

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Milco (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Kurunegala Plantations Limited for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Reports of the National Child Protection Authority for the years 2016 and 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report of the University Grants Commission for the year 2019;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2015;
- (iv) Annual Reports of the Arthur C Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies for the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019;
- (v) Annual Reports of the National Engineering Research and Development Centre of Sri Lanka for the years 2018 and 2019;
- (vi) Annual Report of National Engineering Research and Development Centre of Sri Lanka for the years 2015;
- (vii) Annual Reports of the National Institute of Business Management for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017;
- (viii) Annual Reports of National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority for the years of 2016 and 2017;
- (ix) Annual Report of National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority for the year of 2014;

- (x) Annual Report of Sri Lanka Inventors Commission for the year of 2014; and
- (xi) Annual Report of Sri Lanka Inventors Commission for the year of 2016

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented a petition dated 01.02.2022 from Mr. S. K. U. Sumanadasa of Boyawatta, Temple Road, Maramba, Akuressa.
- (2) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented a petition dated 06.03.2022 from Mrs. K. N. Chandrika of No. 174/4/A, Kandy Road, Pasyala.

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

5. Industrial Disputes (Special Provisions) : The Minister of Education 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 presented,—“Bill to make special provisions to deem the Presidents of the Labour Tribunals as Additional Magistrates to hear, try, determine and dispose of all suits or prosecutions under the provisions of specified enactments and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour.

6. 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 8.00 p.m.. At 10.00 a.m. Standing Order 8 (5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 8.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment (IMF Country Report No. 22/91): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

Suspension of Sittings

At 11.01 a.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 11.17 a.m.

At 11.17 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

Suspension of Sittings

At 11.18 a.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 11.29 a.m.

At 11.29 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.07 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish & Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multi day Fishing Activities and Fish Exports moved,—That Hon. Ajith Rajapakse do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.29 p.m. Hon. Ajith Rajapakse took the Chair.)

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,—That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.09 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.37 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.