



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 29.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, May 04, 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. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, Minister of Mass Media

Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana, Minister of Health

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Minister of Water Supply

Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake, Minister of Wildlife & Forest Resources

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Education and Minister of Plantation Industries

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

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Public Security, Minister of Tourism and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Irrigation

Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Labour

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Energy and Minister of Power

Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice and State Minister of Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation

Hon. Kanaka Herath, Minister of Highways

- Hon. Kapila Athukorala**, State Minister of Development of Minor Crops Plantation
- Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe**, State Minister of Cultural & Performing Arts
- Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar**, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure
- Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage**, State Minister of Transport
- Hon. Siripala Gamalath**, State Minister of Mahaweli
- Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan**, State Minister of Rural Roads Development
- Hon. D. V. Chanaka**, State Minister of Tourism and State Minister of Fisheries
- Hon. Sisira Jayakody**, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine
- Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne**, State Minister of Irrigation
- Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva**, State Minister of Women and Child Development, Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services
- Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka**, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government
- Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda**, State Minister of Health
- Hon. Sanath Nishantha**, State Minister of Water Supply
- Hon. Arundika Fernando**, State Minister of Plantation
- Hon. Ashoka Priyantha**, State Minister of Trade
- Hon. Shantha Bandara**, State Minister of Promoting the Production of Organic fertilizer and Advanced Technology Agriculture
- Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya**, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Hon. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Highways
- Hon. K. Kader Masthan**, State Minister of Rural Economic Crop Cultivation & Promotion
- Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff**, State Minister of Textile Industry & Local Apparel Products Promotion
- Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Industries
- Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara**, State Minister of Cooperative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection
- Hon. Lohan Ratwatte**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries and State Minister of Urban Development
- Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan**, State Minister of Higher Education
- Hon. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Youth & Sports
- Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Housing
- Hon. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Tiran Alles
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Kins Nelson
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. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
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. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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 announce to Parliament that I have received the Determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Industrial Disputes (Special Provisions)’, which was challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court makes the following Determination in terms of the relevant provisions stipulated in the Constitution:

Clause 2(1) read with Schedule I of the Bill is inconsistent with Article 43(1) of the Constitution and may only be passed by the special majority required by Article 84(2) of the Constitution.

The Hon. Attorney-General has informed that Item 49 will be removed from Schedule I of the Bill by way of a Committee Stage Amendment and Schedule I, as so amended, will not be inconsistent with the Constitution.

Clause 2(1) of the Bill is inconsistent with Articles 3, 4(c), 111H.(1)(b) and 111M.(a) of the Constitution and may only be passed by the special majority required by Article 84(2) and approved by the people at a Referendum by virtue of the power of Article 83 of the Constitution.

The Hon. Attorney-General has informed that the deeming provision will be removed from Clause 2(1) of the Bill by way of a Committee Stage Amendment.

Clause 2(1), as so amended, will not be inconsistent with the Constitution.

The Court has also determined that by moving the Amendments that have been specifically stated in the Determination of the Supreme Court in respect of Clause 2, Clause 3, Schedule I and Long Title of the Bill will make the Bill consistent with the Constitution.

I order that the Determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today's Proceedings.”

II

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Parliamentary Business, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 115 of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 20th January 2022:—

Hon. Johnston Fernando

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Public Security and Minister of Tourism presented the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Public Security and Minister of Tourism presented the Report of the Election Commission on the Parliamentary Election held on August 05, 2020.

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

(3) The Minister of Minister of Education and Minister of Plantation Industries presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Plantation Management for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report of the Road Development Authority for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice and State Minister of Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 24.02.2022 to 30.03.2022 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021.

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

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. Ministerial Consultative Committees (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 112(1) of Parliament and the decision taken on 28th April, 2022 by the Committee of Selection, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Samurdhi Development be appointed to be designated, in addition to the thirty-two (32) Ministerial Consultative Committees approved by the Parliament on 21st January 2022.

Above Ministerial Consultative Committee shall consists of the Cabinet Minister in charge of the relevant subject as the Chair, State Minister, Deputy Minister and Five (5) other Members of Parliament to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to discuss and report upon such matters as are referred to it.

The quorum of the above Ministerial Consultative Committee shall be three (3) Members.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Ministerial Consultative Committees (No.2) : 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 Plantation shall be re-designated as “Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries” as per the decision taken by the Committee of Selection on 28th April 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Ministerial Consultative Committees (No.3) : 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 Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government shall be re-designated as “Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils & Local Government” as per the decision taken by the Committee of Selection on 28th April 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Speaker informed the House that a letter has been sent by the Secretary to the President informing the acceptance by the President, the resignation of the Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Member of Parliament from the office of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees.

(At 12.57 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Minister of Defence moved,—That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.47 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education and Minister of Plantation Industries moved,—That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.38 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils & Local Government moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.37 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

7. 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 Thursday, May 05, 2022.