



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 43.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

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

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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

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

Hon. Nalin Fernando, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health and Minister of Water Supply

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

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. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. (Dr.) 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. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya

Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Sanath Nishantha
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Arundika Fernando
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
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. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa

Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
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. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. D. B. Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, 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 Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Defence Services Command and Staff College for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Performance Reports of the Department of Registrar of Companies for the years 2020 and 2021;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of External Resources for the year 2021;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of National Budget for the year 2021;

- (iv) Performance Report of the Department of Multipurpose Development Task Force for the year 2021;
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Management Audit for the year 2021;
- (vi) Performance Report of the Prime Minister's Office for the year 2021;
- (vii) Performance Report of the Excise Department of Sri Lanka for the year 2021;
- (viii) Performance Report of the Government Valuation Department for the year 2021;
- (ix) Performance Report of the Department of Public Enterprises for the year 2021; and
- (x) Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2286/30 of 03rd July 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.

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

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Mullaitivu for the year 2021;
- (ii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Badulla for the year 2021;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Colombo for the year 2021;
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Kandy for the year 2021;
- (v) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat—Nuwara Eliya for the year 2021;
- (vi) Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Kurunegala for the year 2021;
- (vii) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat—Kalutara for the year 2021;
- (viii) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat—Polonnaruwa for the year 2021; and
- (ix) Performance Report of the State Ministry of Provincial Councils & Local Government Affairs for the year 2021.

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

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Urban Settlement Development Authority for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Chief Government Whip of Parliament for the year 2021.

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

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish & Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multiday Fishing Activities and Fish Exports for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources for the year 2021.

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

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the State Ministry of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control for the year 2021.

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

(8) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation for the year 2021.

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

(9) The Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Performance Report of the State Ministry of Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation Affairs for the year 2021.

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

(10) The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the State Ministry of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Industries for the year 2021.

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

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment of the Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Co-operative Employees Commission for the year 2021.

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

(13) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Rural and School Sports Infrastructure Improvement for the year 2021.

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

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, Chair of the Committee on Public Petitions presented the Seventh Report of the Committee on Public Petitions for the period from 01.09.2016 to 02.03.2020 of the Eighth Parliament.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya presented a petition dated 14.03.2022 from Mrs. H. M. P. Kumari of F 161, Randiya Uyana, Ekiriyagala Road, Paragammana.
- (2) Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala presented a petition dated 03.06.2022 from Mr. M. P. Gunarathna of No. 09, Walikumbura, Mawathagama.
- (3) Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera presented a petition dated 23.11.2021 from Mr. Nuwan Muhandiram of No. 58, Bandarawatta, Henegama, Pokunuwita.

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

Suspension of Sittings

At 10.39 a.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 10.55 a.m.

At 10.55 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

4. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2273/06 of 28th March 2022, which were presented on 07.06.2022, be approved.

(At 11.54 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.04 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.20 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara took the Chair.)

Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa seconded by Hon. D. B. Herath moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.29 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Orders under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Orders made by the Minister of Trade under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2270/59 of 10th March 2022, which were presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Order made by the President under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2280/32 of 18th May 2022, which was presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2270/20 of 09th March 2022)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Resolution under the Appropriation Act : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies with the approval of the Government, by virtue of powers vested in Minister of Finance by Section 8 of the Appropriation Act, No. 7 of 2020 and specified in the Order No. 83 hereto, be approved:—

ORDER
Appropriation Act, No. 7 of 2020
Order No. 83 under Section 8

By virtue of powers vested in me by Section 8 of the Appropriation Act, No. 7 of 2020, I, Ranil Wickremesinghe, Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies with the approval of the Government, do by this Order, vary the limits specified against the activity Item No. 21302 "Printing and Publicity and Sales of Publications - Department of Educational Publications" of the Third Schedule to that Act.

<u>Item</u>		<u>Revision</u>	
(i)	Maximum limit of expenditure specified in Column II of the Third Schedule to that Act.		Not Revised
(ii)	Minimum limit of receipts specified in Column III of the Third Schedule to that Act.	From To	Rs. Rs. 4,650,000,000 2,719,000,000
(iii)	Maximum limit of debit balance specified in Column IV of the Third Schedule to that Act.		Not Revised
(iv)	Maximum limit of liabilities specified in Column V of the Third Schedule to that Act.		Not Revised

(This Order is valid up to 31.12.2021)

Ranil Wickremesinghe,
Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization
and National Policies

17.06.2022
Colombo 01.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.1) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2269/48 of 03rd March 2022, which was presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.2) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2269/56 of 03rd March 2022, which was presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.3) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2270/19 of 09th March 2022, which was presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.4) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2273/01 of 28th March 2022, which was presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.5) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2275/02 of 13th April 2022, which was presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.6) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Order made by the President under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2280/31 of 18th May 2022, which was presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.1) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies 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. 2282/21 of 31st May 2022, which were presented on 22.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.2) : The Minister of Tourism and Lands on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies 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. 2282/22 of 31st May 2022, which were presented on 22.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

17. Adjournment (Formulation of a National Policy on Energy) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

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 Wednesday, July 06, 2022.