



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 44.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, July 06, 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

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. 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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education

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

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, 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. 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. Thisakutti Arachchi
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. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
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. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
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. Rishad Bathiudeen
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. 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. 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. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry
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. Vijitha 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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Committee on Parliamentary Business by the Committee of Selection on 06th July 2022, to fill the vacancy created due to the resignation of the Hon. Basil Rohana Rajapaksa, from his Membership of Parliament, in terms of provisions of Standing Order 127(3) of the Parliament.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report & Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Proposal to constitute 16 Sectoral Oversight Committees in the Ninth Parliament and moved that the Proposal be referred to the Committee on Standing Orders.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Inland Revenue Department for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Treasury Operations for the year 2021;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department for Registration of Persons for the year 2021;
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Management Services for the year 2021;
- (v) Performance Report of the Ministry of Finance for the year 2021;
- (vi) Performance Report of the Department of Trade and Investment Policy for the year 2021;
- (vii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Project Management and Monitoring for the year 2021;
- (viii) Performance Report of the Department of Legal Affairs for the year 2021;
- (ix) Performance Report of the Department of Development Finance for the year 2021;
- (x) Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Planning for the year 2021;
- (xi) Performance Report of the Department of State Accounts for the year 2021; and
- (xii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2021.

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

(5) The Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented the—

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Gampaha for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat—Ampara for the year 2021;
- (iii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Jaffna for the year 2021;
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Galle for the year 2021;
- (v) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the Department of Official Languages for the year 2021;
- (vi) Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of National Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management for the year 2021;
- (vii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat—Matara for the year 2021;

- (viii) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government for the year 2021;
- (ix) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the District Secretariat—Puttalam for the year 2021;
- (x) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Mannar for the year 2021; and
- (xi) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat— Vavuniya for the year 2021.

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

(6) The Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Foreign Ministry for the year 2021.

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

(7) The Minister of Fisheries presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Fisheries for the year 2021.

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

(8) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the—

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Printing for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure for the year 2021;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Highways for the year 2021; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Transport for the year 2021.

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

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Community Water Supply for the year 2021.

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

(11) The Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Department of Prisons for the year 2021.

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

(12) 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**.

(13) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Reports of the Department of National Archives for the years 2018 and 2019.

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

(14) 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 the Institute of Sri Lanka Cricket 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.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Youth & Sports for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Sports Development for the year 2021;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation Development Related to Rural Paddy Fields for the year 2021; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Irrigation for the year 2021.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. H. M. M. Harees presented a petition dated 14.08.2021 from Mrs. A. S. Thurrathul Paritha of No. 88, A. Al Manar Road, Maruthamunai.
- (2) Hon. Lohan Ratwatte presented a petition dated 25.07.2021 from Mr. Priyantha Kumarage of No. 61/02, Palagama, Polgasowita.
- (3) Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana presented a petition dated 28.02.2022 from Mrs. K. Lasitha Nilushi of No. 199/A 1, Gamini Mawatha, Batuwatta, Ragama.

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

4. Social Security Contribution Levy : The Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,—“Bill to provide for the imposition and collection of a levy known as the Social Security Contribution Levy on the liable turnover of every person to whom this Act applies; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

5. Sittings of the Parliament (No.1) : 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 4.30 p.m.. At 10.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 4.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. 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.

7. Sittings of the Parliament (No.2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 19th, 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Leave to introduce Bill (No.1) : Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar seconded by Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Parliamentary Elections Act, No.1 of 1981.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government for report.

9. Leave to introduce Bill (No.2) : Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar seconded by Hon. Waruna Liyanage moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government for report.

10. Leave to introduce Bill (No.3) : Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar seconded by Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance No. 53 of 1946.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government for report.

11. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the 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, which was presented on 05.07.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Adjournment (Clear Course of Action to Resolve the Economic Crisis) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 12.20 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—That Hon. Shantha Bandara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.01 p.m. Hon. Shantha Bandara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.50 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being 4.30 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 Tuesday, July 19, 2022 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.