



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 2.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, August 09, 2022 at 1.00 p.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. Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration,
Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

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

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

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

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education and Leader of the House of
Parliament

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 Rajapakshe, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms

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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
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. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
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. 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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Sanath Nishantha

Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
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. 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. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
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. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. 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. Jagath Samarawickrama
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. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. D. B. 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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Third Instalment – Part XVIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;
- (ii) Second Instalment – Parts XXXI and XXXII, Third Instalment – Part XVI and Ninth Instalment – Part XXVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (iii) Ninth Instalment – Parts XXXII and XXXIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018;
- (iv) Second Instalment – Parts XXXVII, XXXVIII and XXXIX, Third Instalment – Part XV and Ninth Instalment – Part XXIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;

- (v) Second Instalment – Parts XXX and XXXI, Third Instalment – Part XVI and Ninth Instalment – Parts XVIII, XIX, XX and XXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020; and
- (vi) Ninth Instalment – Part I of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021

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 Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2282/24 of 31st May 2022);
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies 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. 2282/23 of 31st May 2022;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2(3) of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2284/03 of 15th June 2022

and moved that the Resolution and those Orders be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Customs for the year 2021;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Fiscal Policy for the year 2021;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Election Commission for the year 2021;
- (iv) Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2291/26 of 03rd August 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;
- (v) 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 01.06.2022 to 30.06.2022 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021; and

- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 10A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) as amended by Act No. 83 of 1988, relating to surcharge on the Customs Duty payable on imported goods and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2282/25 of 31st May 2022.

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

- (4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure for the year 2021.

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

- (5) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Department of Motor Traffic for the year 2021.

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

- (6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (7) The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of the Forest Conservation for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the year 2020.

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

- (8) The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (9) The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Justice for the year 2021.

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

- (10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the Ministry of Tourism and Lands for the year 2021.

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

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Power for the year 2021.

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

(12) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the Central Environmental Authority for the years 2019 and 2020 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(13) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Public Security for the year 2021.

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

2. Appropriation (Amendment) : The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented,— “Bill to amend the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

3. 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, the hours of sittings of Parliament on this day shall be 1.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.. At 1.00 p.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.

4. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, from 10th August 2022, the hours of sittings of Parliament on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament shall be 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 4.30 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 to 6 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.

6. Committee of Selection (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 114 of the Parliament, the Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and twelve (12) Members which shall include the Leaders of political parties or their nominees to be nominated by Parliament to serve during the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Committee of Selection (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament this day, the undermentioned twelve (12) Members do serve in the Committee of Selection during the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament:—

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 10th August 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Policy Statement Made by the Honourable President at the Inauguration of the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 2.13 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

And it being past 4.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.30 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.