



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 16.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 9.30 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. 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. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries

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

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Health

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, State Minister of Tourism

Hon. Sivanesanthurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Fisheries
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
Hon. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply
Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises
Development
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local
Government
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake

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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroschan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
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. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
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. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Kabir Hashim
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 announce to Parliament that I have received the Determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill entitled “Petroleum Products (Special Provisions) (Amendment)” which was challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

On an overall consideration of the provisions of the Bill, the Supreme Court has made the following Determination:—

Clause 3(2) of the Bill is inconsistent with Article 12(1) of the Constitution and may only be passed by the special majority required under the provisions of paragraph (2) of Article 84.

The inconsistency will cease if the composition of the Committee is changed to include the following:—

1. Secretary to the Ministry in charge of the subject of Economic Policy Development.
2. Secretary to the Ministry in charge of the subject of Investment Promotion.

Clause 7 of the Bill is inconsistent with Articles 3 and 4(c) of the Constitution and may be passed only by the special majority required under the provisions of paragraph (2) of Article 84 and approved by the People at a Referendum by virtue of the provisions of Article 83 of the Constitution.

The Bill as a whole is inconsistent with Article 12(1) of the Constitution.

This inconsistency will cease if the following Clause is added to the Bill:—

‘The Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers shall be deemed to be a Scheduled Institution within the meaning of the Bribery Act, and the provisions of that Act shall be construed accordingly.’

I order that the Determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings of the House.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment).’ ”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) 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), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2294/29 of 23rd August 2022; and
- (ii) 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), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2294/30 of 23rd August 2022

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing 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 01.08.2022 to 31.08.2022 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021.

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

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

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Management Honours in Accounting and Finance Degree awarded by Horizon College of Business and Technology (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2273/43 of 30th March 2022; and
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Education Honours in Social Sciences Degree awarded by Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (Gurantee) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2273/44 of 30th March 2022.

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

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Civil Aviation presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Civil Aviation under section 117 of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 read with Sections 66 and 69 of the aforesaid Act;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jaya Container Terminals Limited for the year 2020;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority for the year 2020;
- (iv) Annual Report of Civil Aviation Authority for the year 2020;
- (v) Annual Report of Ceylon Shipping Corporation for the year 2017/2018;
- (vi) Annual Report of Ceylon Shipping Corporation for the year 2018/2019; and
- (vii) Annual Report of Sri Lanka Ports Authority for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr) Bandula Gunawardena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Bill to amend Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation Act. No. 6 of 1982;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for the year 2018;
- (iii) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council for the year 2018;
- (iv) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council for the year 2019;
- (v) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Foundation for the year 2019;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Independent Television Network Ltd for the year 2020; and
- (vii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the year 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.52 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

5. Regulations under the Civil Aviation Act : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation under Section 117 read with Sections 66 and 69 of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2078/22 of 03rd July 2018 and the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2283/05 of 06th June 2022 prepared by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117 read with Sections 66 and 69 of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 for correcting the typographical errors in the said first Gazette, which were presented on 21.06.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the following recommendations of the Committee on Standing Orders relating to the amendments to Standing Order Nos. 8, 9, 19, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 68, 70, 72, 111, 112, 119, 120, 121 and 122 of the Parliament made in their Report which was presented to Parliament on 07th September 2022 be agreed to:—

1. That the existing Standing Order 8 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

8. (1) Unless Parliament otherwise decides, Parliament shall meet in two alternate weeks in each month commencing after the first Sunday of each month and shall sit on every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the first and the third of such weeks.

(2) The sitting of Parliament shall commence at 9.30 a.m.:

Provided that, a meeting summoned by the President, shall begin at such hour as the President may fix by notice given thereon.

- (3) On the sitting days of Parliament, the proceedings on any Business of Parliament under consideration at 12.30 p.m., unless Parliament otherwise decides, be interrupted without question put and shall be resumed at 1.00 p.m.
- (4) The Speaker shall adjourn Parliament at 5.30 p.m. without question put.
- (5) At 4.30 p.m. the proceedings on any business then under consideration shall be interrupted, and if Parliament be in Committee, the Presiding Member shall leave the Chair and make his report to Parliament, and if a motion has been proposed for the adjournment of Parliament, or of the debate, or in Committee that the Chair do report progress or do leave the Chair, every such dilatory motion shall lapse without question put:

Provided that, on the interruption of business, the closure may be moved under Standing Order 46 and, if moved, or if proceedings under that Standing Order be then in progress, the Speaker or the presiding Member shall not leave the Chair until the question consequent thereon and on any further motion as provided for in that Standing Order has been determined.

- (6) After the business under consideration at 4.30 p.m. has been disposed of, no business which may be opposed by any Member shall be taken up for consideration.
- (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Standing Order, for the purpose of concluding the present Business of the House, the hours of sitting may be extended by the House on a proposal made by a Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers without notice, if agreed upon by a majority of Members present in the House.

2. That the existing Standing Order 9 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

9. A motion may be made by a Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers at the commencement of Public Business, to be decided without amendment or debate to the effect that the proceedings on any specified business be exempted at a particular day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 8, and if such a motion be agreed to, the business so specified shall not be interrupted if it is under discussion at the time fixed for interruption of business and may be entered upon at any hour though opposed:

Provided that, when the business exempted from the operation of Standing Order 8 is disposed of after 4.30 p.m., the Speaker shall, immediately after the conclusion of the last item of exempted business, adjourn Parliament without question put.

3. That the existing Standing Order 19 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

- 19.(1) A motion for the adjournment of Parliament shall not be made until Public Business has been entered upon unless a Member other than a Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers rises in his place at the end of questions and asks leave to move the adjournment of Parliament, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and state the matter.

- (2) Any such motion by a Member under paragraph (1) above shall not be made unless—
- (a) Written notice of such motion is given to the Speaker before the commencement of the sitting on the day on which the motion is proposed to be made and the consent of the Speaker is obtained; and
 - (b) the leave of Parliament has been obtained by such Member; or
 - (c) not less than twenty Members rise in their places to support the request of such Member, where the leave of Parliament not having been given:

Provided that, where the Speaker has refused his consent or is of the opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is not in order, he may allow the Member raising the question to read the notice of the motion or part thereof as approved by the Speaker and thereafter the Speaker shall state the reason for refusing consent or holding the motion not in order.

- (3) If the motion is so supported or Parliament gives leave, it shall stand over until 3.30 p.m.
- (4) Leave shall not be sought for more than one such motion on any one day.
- (5) The days on which Government Business has precedence, no motion for the adjournment of Parliament, other than a motion made under the provisions of this Standing Order, shall be moved between the items of business set down for that day before 4.30 p.m. unless such motion be moved by a Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers.

4. That the existing Standing Order 50 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

- 50.(1) Any Minister may after notice, subject to the provisions of Article 78 of the Constitution, present a Bill without an order of Parliament for its introduction. When a Bill is so presented at the commencement of Public Business, the title of the Bill shall be read by the Secretary-General and the Bill shall then be deemed to have been read the first time and to have been ordered to be printed and shall stand for Second Reading on a date not earlier than a week from the date on which it was presented:

Provided that, an Urgent Bill referred to in Article 122 of the Constitution shall stand for Second Reading upon such day as the Minister of the Cabinet or the Deputy Minister may appoint.

- (2) Every such Bill shall be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee without a motion immediately after the First Reading. The Committee may suggest amendments to the Bill. No further proceedings to be had until the Committee has reported back to Parliament or until the expiration of period of time allowed by Parliament.
- (3) When the Speaker receives a copy of a reference addressed to the Chief Justice by the President in relation to a Bill which is in the view of the Cabinet of Ministers urgent in the interest of national security or for the purpose of any matter relating to disaster management, and bears an endorsement to that effect under the hand of the Secretary to the Cabinet under Article 122(1) of the Constitution, such Bill shall not be placed on the Order Paper until the Speaker has received from the Supreme Court its determination as provided for in Article 122(1)(c) of the Constitution.

5. That the existing Standing Order 52 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

52. (1) Any Private Member desiring to introduce a Bill shall apply to Parliament for leave to do so, setting the objective and leading features of such Bill.
- (2) Every such application shall be made in the form of a motion and the Member making such application shall deliver to the Secretary-General a copy of the proposed Bill, in Sinhala and Tamil with a translation in English together with a copy of his motion.
- (3) The Secretary-General shall refer the Bill to the Attorney-General to seek his opinion as to whether the Bill is inconsistent with the Constitution and whether it attracts any impediment in respect of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The Attorney-General shall communicate his observations to the Parliament within a period of six weeks.
- (4) After the receipt of the opinion of the Attorney-General the Secretary-General shall cause the Bill to be published in the Gazette in Sinhala and Tamil with a translation in English.
- (5) At any time after the lapse of a period of seven days from the date on which the Bill was published in the Gazette, the motion referred to in paragraph (2) above shall be placed on the Order Paper of Parliament.
- (6) Leave being granted by the House on a question put and carried or in the event that leave is not granted by the House but not fewer than twenty Members rise in their places to support the Member, the Bill shall then be deemed to have been read the first time and ordered to be printed and shall stand referred without discussion to the Minister or Deputy Minister in charge of the subjects and functions to which the Bill relates. If the Minister or the Deputy Minister is not present it shall stand referred to such other Minister or Deputy Minister as the Speaker may nominate and no further proceedings shall be taken in respect of such Bill until the Minister or Deputy Minister to whom it has been referred to has reported to Parliament thereon.
- (7) After the report referred to in paragraph (6) above has been made or if after the expiry of six months from the date on which the Bill was referred to the Minister or Deputy Minister and where no report has been made by such Minister or Deputy Minister, the Bill shall be set down for Second Reading upon such day as the Member in charge of the Bill desires.

6. That the existing Standing Order 54 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

54. In any case, in which individual rights or interests may be peculiarly affected by any Bill, any party so affected may be heard either in person or by counsel upon petition before the Sectoral Oversight Committee or the Legislative Standing Committee to which such Bill is referred to.

7. That the existing Standing Order 55 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

55. (1) A Bill other than a Bill under Article 122 of the Constitution, shall be set down for Second Reading on a day not earlier than a week from the day on which it was presented.

- (2) When the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to determine whether any Bill or any provision thereof is inconsistent with the Constitution has been invoked under Article 121 of the Constitution and a copy of the reference or petition has been delivered to the Speaker—

- (a) such reference or filing of a petition shall be conveyed to Parliament by the Speaker on the first day of a meeting of Parliament after such reference is made or such petition is filed;
- (b) no proceedings in relation to such Bill shall be had until the determination of the Supreme Court in respect thereof has been made and communicated to the Speaker or until the expiration of a period of three weeks from the date of such reference or filing of such petition, whichever occurs first;
- (c) upon receipt of the determination of the Supreme Court it shall be announced to Parliament by the Speaker and no debate shall be permitted on such announcement.

8. That the existing Standing Order 57 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

57. When a Bill has been read a second time, upon a motion made by a Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister who is not a member of the Cabinet of Ministers or a Deputy Minister, the Bill shall be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament:

Provided that, if upon a motion made by a Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers, a Minister who is not a member of the Cabinet of Ministers or a Deputy Minister, Parliament so decides, a Bill, other than an Annual or Supplementary Appropriation Bill, may be referred to a Select Committee to be nominated by the Speaker or to the Legislative Standing Committee.

9. That the existing Standing Order 58 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

58. When a Bill has been referred to a Select Committee, or the Legislative Standing Committee no further proceedings shall be taken thereon until the Committee has reported.

10. That the existing Standing Order 68 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

68. The Legislative Standing Committee or a Select Committee to which a Bill has been referred shall present a report to Parliament setting out its recommendations, and a copy of the report shall be distributed to every Member.

11. That the existing Standing Order 70 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

70. The report of the Legislative Standing Committee or the Select Committee on a Bill shall be presented by the Chair and the report shall be set down for consideration upon a day to be appointed by Parliament. Upon consideration of

the report from the Legislative Standing Committee or a Select Committee, Parliament shall consider only those amendments, if any, made by the Committee but may further amend those amendments. No new amendments shall be made by Parliament upon consideration of the report except such are as consequential upon amendments made by the Committee and accepted by Parliament, but the Bill may be recommitted to the same Committee with reference to particular amendments made by that Committee.

12. That the existing Standing Order 72 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

72. (1) When a Bill has been reported to Parliament by the Legislative Standing Committee or a Select Committee without amendments, it may upon the day appointed for its consideration, be forthwith read a third time and passed or if Parliament so direct, the Third Reading may be postponed.
- (2) If the Legislative Standing Committee or a Select Committee has amended the Bill, it may be read a third time and passed as soon as Parliament has considered the amendments made by the Committee or if Parliament so direct, the Third Reading may be postponed.

13. That the existing Standing Order 111 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

- 111.(1) There shall be not more than Twenty Sectoral Oversight Committees of which the subjects and functions are determined by the Committee of Selection.
- (2) The Sectoral Oversight Committees shall function for the duration of Parliament and conduct its inquiries notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.
- (3) The Sectoral Oversight Committees shall have the power to examine any Bill, except the Bills defined in Article 152 of the Constitution, Treaty, Reports including the Annual and Performance Reports relating to the institutions coming under its purview or any other matter referred to the Committee by Parliament or any Committee or a Minister relating to the subjects and functions within their jurisdiction.
- (4) The Sectoral Oversight Committees may conduct at any time such inquiries and investigations as it considers necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities.
- (5) Each Sectoral Oversight Committee shall meet not less than two days of every month.
- (6) The Sectoral Oversight Committees shall have general oversight responsibilities in order to assist Parliament in—
 - (a) its analysis, appraisal and evaluation of the application, administration, execution and effectiveness of existing government policies;
 - (b) its activities for future research and forecasting for the formulation of alternative policies;

- (c) its analysis, appraisal and evaluation of the application, administration, execution and effectiveness of legislation passed by Parliament and condition and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting any new or additional legislation; and
 - (d) its formulation, consideration and enactment or changes in any law and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.
- (7) Each Sectoral Oversight Committee may examine the suitability of any person who has been either appointed to any post or nominated to hold office in any post to any institution within the jurisdiction of that Committee and make recommendations in regard to such persons to the appropriate Ministry.
- (8) All Members of Parliament other than the following are eligible to serve as Members of any Sectoral Oversight Committee:—
- (a) The Speaker;
 - (b) The Deputy Speaker;
 - (c) The Deputy Chairperson of Committees;
 - (d) The Prime Minister;
 - (e) The Leader of the House of Parliament;
 - (f) The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament; and
 - (g) The Ministers of Cabinet appointed under Article 43(1) of the Constitution.
- (9) Ministers appointed under Article 45(1) of the Constitution and Deputy Ministers shall not be eligible to serve in any Sectoral Oversight Committee whose jurisdiction and related functions are the same as any subject, function, Department or Institution of the Minister of the Cabinet under whose purview such Minister or Deputy Minister functions:
- Provided that, the Committee may invite the Minister, the Minister who is not a member of the Cabinet of Ministers or the Deputy Minister to assist the Committee when a Bill is being discussed in the Committee.
- (10) The Committee of Selection shall in nominating Members to Sectoral Oversight Committees have due regard to numerical strengths of political parties and independent groups represented in Parliament in accordance with the nominations made by the leaders of such political parties and independent groups.
- (11) Any Member of Parliament, who is not a Member of a particular Sectoral Oversight Committee may be permitted to observe the Committee proceedings by the Chair of any such Committee.
- (12) Each Sectoral Oversight Committee shall at its first meeting and thereafter, at the first meeting after the Chair become vacant, elect a Chair from among the Members of the Sectoral Oversight Committee.

- (13) Any Member who absents from three consecutive meetings of any Sectoral Oversight Committee without obtaining prior leave of such Committee shall be deemed to have vacated membership of such Committee.
- (14) Each Sectoral Oversight Committee may where it considers necessary appoint Sub-Committees of its own members to examine and report to such Committee such matters as the Committee may deem necessary.
- (15) Any matter referred to a Sectoral Oversight Committee may not be taken up for consideration by Parliament until six weeks has lapsed from the date of the reference, unless the Parliament has directed otherwise as the Parliament may by resolution determine such period.
- (16) Every Sectoral Oversight Committee may in regard to any Bill or any other matter of public importance, call for evidence from any affected or interested party.
- (17) Every Sectoral Oversight Committee is empowered to summon persons and call for papers and records and shall submit to Parliament, Reports containing their opinion and observations together with the minutes of evidence taken before them.
- (18) Where a Sectoral Oversight Committee do the enactment of legislation or submit a non-legislative report, the Minister of the Cabinet to whom the relevant subject is assigned and has ministerial responsibility and if not assigned, the Prime Minister shall fulfil the recommendations laid down in the report within in a period of eight weeks, and also submit a statement on actions proposes to take with regard to observations or if the Minister is of the view that particular recommendation should not be fulfilled, the Minister shall explain the reasons for this in writing and indicate alternative action that the Minister proposes. If the Committee requires, the Committee may invite the relevant Minister to explain the position in person and to answer the questions that arise as to such matters within eight weeks.
- (19) (a) The Chair may invite not more than five (5) Youth Representatives between the age of 18 and 35 years to assist the Committee in respect of each matter taken up for inquiry before the Committee.
 - (b) With the permission of the Chair, the Youth Representatives summoned may give the opportunity to ask questions from the witnesses and peruse documents before the Committee:

However, the Youth Representatives will not have a vote in the Committee.
 - (c) The Chair may allow the views, observations and opinions of the Youth Representatives to be included in the Report of the Committee by way of an addendum to the Report, subject to any direction that the Committee may decide.
 - (d) Selection criteria for the Youth Representatives shall be decided on the guidelines set by the Committee of Selection.

14. That the existing Standing Order 112 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

112. (1) The Committee of Selection shall at the commencement of every Session of Parliament and from time to time as necessary may appoint a number of “Ministerial Consultative Committees” corresponding to the number of Ministries of the Cabinet of Ministers, comprising—

- (a) The Cabinet Minister in charge of the relevant subject as Chair;
- (b) State Minister;
- (c) Deputy Minister; and
- (d) Five other Members of Parliament nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) Any Member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Committee without having obtained prior leave of such Committee on application under his signature, shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of such Ministerial Consultative Committee and shall not be re-appointed to such Committee during the same Session unless agreed to by the Committee of Selection:

Provided that, the preceding provisions shall not apply where any meeting of such Committee is held on a day falling within the period during which such Member has, with the leave of Parliament first obtained, absented himself from sittings of Parliament.

- (3) Any Member of Parliament may attend the meetings of a Ministerial Consultative Committee of which he is not a Member at the request of the Chair of the Committee and shall withdraw when requested by the Chair.
- (4) The duty of a Ministerial Consultative Committee shall be to consider and report such matters as are referred to the Committee by the Chair or by Parliament or by any Member of Parliament including motions, regulations, or papers, etc.
- (5) (a) The meetings of the Committee shall be summoned in consultation with the Secretary to the respective Ministry.
(b) A Ministerial Consultative Committee shall have the power to initiate through the Chair any Bill or motion.
- (6) Each Ministerial Consultative Committee shall meet whenever summoned by the Chair. It shall be the duty of every Secretary to the Ministry to ensure in consultation with the Chair and Secretary General of Parliament that meetings are summoned by the Chair at least once a month and meaningful programme of work arranged and the Ministerial Consultative Committee from time to time shall report its findings to Parliament:

Provided that, a meeting shall be summoned as soon as possible upon the written request of at least three Members of such Ministerial Consultative Committee.

- (7) Each Ministerial Consultative Committee shall have the power to send for and examine persons, papers and records, to move from place to place and to do all such acts as are necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to it and to meet notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.
- (8) Three Members of a Ministerial Consultative Committee shall form the quorum and it shall be the duty of the Chair of such Ministerial Consultative Committee not to function without the required quorum.
- (9) General Rules for Committees shall apply to Ministerial Consultative Committees.

15. That the existing Standing Order 119 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

- 119.(1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Public Accounts consisting of sixteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Committee on Public Accounts to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure and such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit, with the assistance of the Auditor-General.
 - (3) The Committee on Public Accounts shall, every three months, report to Parliament on the accounts examined, the finances, financial procedures, performance and management generally of any department, local authority and on any matter arising therefrom. The report shall include observations on matters that require remedial action, and recommendations to ensure the proper usage of public finance.
 - (4) A report of the Committee on Public Accounts, once tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance and the Ministers in charge of the institutions who shall fulfil the recommendations laid down in the report within a period of eight weeks, and also submit a statement on actions they propose to take with regard to observations, or if the Minister is of the view that particular recommendations may not be fulfilled, the Minister shall explain the reasons for this in writing proper usage of public finance. If the Committee requires, the Committee may invite the relevant Minister to explain the position in person and to answer the questions that arise as to such matters within eight weeks.
 - (5) (a) The Committee on Public Accounts shall as required appoint Sub-Committees of its Members to look at any institution, provided that other Members may attend any such Sub-Committee meeting if they so wish. Such Sub-Committee shall report to the Committee on all accounts and the finances and management of such departments and local authorities as the Committee may direct.

- (b) The Committee on Public Accounts or any Sub-Committees appointed by the Committee shall as required have sittings in Parliament or any relevant institutions as decided by the Committee.
- (c) Members who are not Members of the Committee on Public Accounts may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.
- (6) The Committee on Public Accounts or any of its Sub-Committees shall for the performance of its duties have the power to summon before it and question any person and call for and examine any paper, book, record or other document and to have access to stores and property.
- (7) The quorum of the Committee on Public Accounts shall be five Members. Any Member not attending three consecutive meetings of the Committee without good reason acceptable to the Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of the Committee.

16. That the existing Standing Order 120 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

- 120.(1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Public Enterprises consisting of sixteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Committee on Public Enterprises to examine the accounts of public corporations, institutions funded wholly or in part by Government and of any business or other undertaking vested under any written law in the Government laid before Parliament, with the assistance of the Auditor-General.
 - (3) The Committee on Public Enterprises shall, every three months, report to Parliament on the accounts examined, the finances, financial procedures, performance and management generally of any public corporation or of any business or other undertaking vested under any written law in the Government and on any matter arising therefrom. The report shall include observations on matters that require remedial action, and recommendations to ensure the proper usage of public finance.
 - (4) A report of the Committee on Public Enterprises, once tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance and the Ministers in charge of the institutions who shall fulfil the recommendations laid down in the report within a period of eight weeks, and also submit a statement on actions they propose to take with regard to observations, or if the Minister is of the view that particular recommendations may not be fulfilled, the Minister shall explain the reasons for this in writing and indicate alternative action the Minister proposes to take to ensure the proper usage of public finance. If the Committee requires, the Committee may invite the relevant Minister to explain the position in person and to answer the questions that arise as to such matters within eight weeks.

- (5) (a) The Committee on Public Enterprises may when it considers necessary appoint any Sub-Committees consisting of its own Members to examine and report to the Committee on all accounts, the budgets and annual estimates, the finances and management of such public corporations or of any business or other undertaking vested under any written law in the Government as the Committee may direct.
- (b) The Committee on Public Enterprises or any Sub-Committees appointed by the Committee shall as required have sittings in Parliament or any relevant institutions as decided by the Committee.
- (c) Members who are not Members of the Committee on Public Enterprises may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.
- (6) The Committee or any of its Sub-Committees shall for the performance of its duties have the power to summon before it and question any person and call for and examine any paper, book, record or other document and to have access to stores and property.
- (7) The quorum of the Committee on Public Enterprises shall be five Members. Any Member not attending three consecutive meetings of the Committee without good reason acceptable to the Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of the Committee.

17. That the existing Standing Order 121 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

- 121.(1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Public Finance consisting of a Chair and eleven Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection provided that the Chair shall be a Member of the Opposition.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Committee on Public Finance to examine—
 - (a) the collection of revenue under Article 148 of the Constitution;
 - (b) the payment from the Consolidated Fund;
 - (c) the utilization of public funds for specific purposes by law;
 - (d) the application of public funds;
 - (e) the recessions of appropriations contained in the Appropriation Act for the current year, the transfer of appropriation and the unexpected balance;
 - (f) the implementation of the Appropriation Act for the current year;
 - (g) public debt and debt service;
 - (h) reports and statements under the Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act, No. 3 of 2003; and
 - (i) the Bills, Motions, Resolutions and Orders and Motions defined in Article 152 of the Constitution.
- (3) The Parliament, any Committee or a Minister may also refer any matter to the Committee on Public Finance for its consideration and response.

- (4) The Committee shall, from time to time, report to Parliament, the issues arising from the matters referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) above.
- (5) The Committee shall present before the commencement of the committee stage of the Appropriation Bill a report—
 - (i) on the fiscal financial and economic assumptions used as the basis in arriving at total estimated expenditure and revenue; and
 - (ii) on the estimates including whether the allocation of money is in compliance with the policies of the Government.
- (6) A report of the Committee on Public Finance once tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the Minister of Finance and the Minister who shall submit the observations and steps taken therein contained to Parliament within a period of eight weeks.
- (7) The Committee on Public Finance may have the power to summon persons and call for papers and records and shall submit to Parliament, Reports containing their opinions and observations together with the minutes of evidence taken before them.
- (8) The quorum of the Committee shall be four Members.

18. That the existing Standing Order 122 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

122. (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Public Petitions consisting of fifteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers, nominated by the Committee of Selection.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Committee on Public Petitions to consider the petitions referred to it under the provisions of paragraph (10) of Standing Order 30.
- (3) Where the Committee on Public Petitions is of the view that any petition discloses an infringement of a fundamental right or other injustice by a public officer or an officer of a public corporation, local authority or other like institution, the Committee on Public Petitions may inquire into such petition or refer such petition, to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) to inquire and report.
- (4) The Committee on Public Petitions having inquired into the petition or after consideration of a report made to it by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) upon the conclusion of his investigation in respect of a petition referred to him by the Committee on Public Petitions, may report to Parliament its opinion on the action to be taken on such petition or report.
- (5) The Committee on Public Petitions shall, every three months, report to Parliament its opinion on the action to be taken in respect of petitions referred to it, together with such other observations on such petitions as it may think fit.

- (6) When the report is tabled in Parliament, the Speaker shall take steps to send the contents of such report to the relevant Minister for his responses to the observations. The Minister's responses shall be forwarded to the Speaker in writing within a period of eight weeks.
- (7) Having received the responses from the relevant Minister, the Speaker shall forward a copy to the Chair and the Member of Parliament who has presented the petition whereupon the Committee shall consider the responses and, if not satisfied, shall request the Minister to take suitable remedial action. The Minister shall act as required within a month or else respond in writing as to why this is not possible, and indicate what alternative action he has taken to deal with the grievance under consideration.
- (8) The Committee on Public Petitions may, when it considers necessary, appoint any Sub-Committees of its own Members to examine and report to the Committee on Public Petitions of such petitions or reports as the Committee on Public Petitions may direct.
- (9) The Committee on Public Petitions or any of its Sub-Committees shall, for the performance of its duties have the power to summon before it and question any person, call for and examine any paper, book, record or other document and to have access to stores and property.
- (10) The quorum of the Committee on Public Petitions shall be five Members. Any Member not attending three consecutive meetings of the Committee without good reason acceptable to the Committee.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,—
That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.04 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.

The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,—
That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.42 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

Hon. Rohana Bandara seconded by Hon. Nimal Piyathissa moved,— That
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.30 p.m. Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera took the Chair.

And it being 4.30 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on a future date.

7. Adjournment (Illegal Constructions and Forcible Acquisition of Land at Thirukoneswaram Kovil) : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

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 9.30 a.m. on Friday, September 23, 2022.