



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 18.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, October 03, 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. 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. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

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. 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. Roshan Ranasinghe, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of
Irrigation

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

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

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion
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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
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. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella

Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
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. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff

Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
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. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

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 inform that in terms of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled ‘Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (Amendment)’ on 26th September 2022.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of six petitions filed at the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Bureau of Rehabilitation’.”

III

“I wish to inform that notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 119 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 10th August 2022 the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Accounts, in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 29th August 2022:—

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya”

IV

“I wish to inform that notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 120 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 10th August 2022 the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Enterprises, in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 29th August 2022:—

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara”

V

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated with the Deputy Speaker as the Chair and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 113 and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th August 2022:—

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva

Hon. Sisira Jayakody

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa

Hon. Faizal Cassim

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

Hon. Imran Maharoof

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte

Hon. Madhura Withanage

Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2A of Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002 as amended by Act, No. 6 of 2005, relating to the Value Added Tax and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2282/26 of 31st May 2022;
- (ii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 22(1) of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise Duty on Bottled Toddy, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2277/62 of 29th April 2022
(Excise Notification No. 03/2022);
- (iii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 32 read with Section 22 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise Duty on Ethyl Alcohol, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2283/28 of 08th June 2022
(Excise Notification No. 04/2022); and

- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 regarding on Embarkation Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2272/53 of 27th March 2022

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

Question put, and agreed to.

- (2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board 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 Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Reports of the National Library and Documentation Services Board for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017; and
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition of Parliament 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 Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (6) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (7) The Minister of Health and Minister of Water Supply presented the Annual Report of the Water Resources 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.

(8) The Minister of Health and Minister of Water Supply presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Production, Supply & Regulation of Pharmaceuticals for the year 2021.

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

(9) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance & Accounts Reports of the Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs for the years 2020 and 2021.

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

(10) The Minister of Power and Energy presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon presented a petition dated 03.08.2021 from Mr. V. Ganeshanandam of No. 54 E, Govindan Road, Batticaloa.
- (2) Hon. Chandima Weerakkody presented a petition dated 28.08.2022 from Mrs. Suneetha Wijesinghe of Sirivijayapura, In front of Temple, Monaragala.
- (3) Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena presented a petition dated 26.08.2022 from Mrs. Sudarma Chandrika Kondadeniya of 23rd Post, Rathmal Mawatha, Hindikiwula, Monaragala.
- (4) Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana presented a petition dated 08.09.2022 from Mr. W. A. Chandrasoma of No. 531, Kandaliyaddapaluwa, Ragama.

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

(At 11.35 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.02 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

4. Kandyan Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) : The Minister Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,—“Bill to amend the Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act (Chapter 113).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

5. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motions agreed to by Parliament on 09th and 12th August 2022, from 04th October 2022, the hours of sittings of Parliament on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.00 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.

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 sittings from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Amendment to the Resolution for the constitution of the National Council : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the resolution adopted by Parliament on 20th September 2022 should be amended by inserting the following two paragraphs immediately after paragraph (d) of the resolution:—

“(e) The National Council shall have the power to summon before it and question any person, call for and examine any paper, book, record or other documents; and

(f) General Rules for Committees of the Standing Orders of the Parliament shall apply to National Council.”

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 3.00 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 04, 2022.