



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 19.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, October 04, 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. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

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. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe, State Minister of Women and Child Affairs
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, State Minister of Tourism
Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanesathurai 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. Premalal Jayasekara, State Minister of Ports and Aviation
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
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. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
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. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation
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. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
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. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
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. 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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar

Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
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. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

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 announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received two copies of Petitions filed at the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Bureau of Rehabilitation’, in addition to the receipt of Petitions mentioned in the announcement made by me on 03rd October 2022.”

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

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XXII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;
- (ii) Ninth Installment – Part XXVII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (iii) Second Installment – Parts XXXVIII, XXXIX, XL, XLI and XLII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018;
- (iv) Ninth Installment – Parts XXX and XXXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;

- (v) Second Installment – Parts XXXII, XXXIII and XXXIV and Third Installment – Part XVII and Ninth Installment – Parts XXII and XXIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020; and
- (vi) Second Installment – Parts I, II, III, IV and V, Third Installment – Parts I and II and Ninth Installment – Part II 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) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Sri Lanka Coast Guard for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Delimitation Commission for the year 2021; and
- (iii) Performance Report of the Presidential Secretariat for the year 2021.

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

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences of the University of Colombo for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Factory for the year 2021.

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

(5) The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries 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 Coconut Development Authority, Coconut Cultivation Board and Coconut Research Institute of the Ministry of Plantation 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.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Reports and Accounts of the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

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

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the Special Audit Report Regarding the Evaluation of the Procurement Process Implemented for the Purchase of Coal Required for the Period 2022–2025 for the Norochchola Coal Plant which was referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the —

- (i) Order Under the Strategic Development Project Act, No. 14 of 2008;
 - (ii) Order Under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act No. 13 of 1989; and
 - (iii) Regulations under the Imports and Exports Control Act No. 1 of 1969
- which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda presented —

- (i) a petition dated 25.08.2022 from Mr. G. E. G. Perera of No. 23/30, Egodawatta Road, Wewa Road, Boralesgamuwa;
- (ii) a petition dated 25.08.2022 from Mr. G. S. Abeywickrama of No. 88/4, U. E. Perera Mawatha, Rajagiriya; and
- (iii) a petition dated 25.08.2022 from Mr. L. A. Janapriya Silva of No. 52/38/A, Pepiliyana Road, Nedimala, Dehiwala.

(2) Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva presented —

- (i) a petition dated 26.07.2022 from Mrs. Ajantha Malkanthi Jayasundara of No. 47A, Kongahagoda, Gonapinuwala; and
- (ii) a petition dated 26.07.2022 from Mr. S. W. C. Mohotti of No. 47A, Kongahagoda, Gonapinuwala.

(3) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 21.08.2022 from Mr. R. A. Ranasinghe of No. 62/106, Kadapela, Iskolawatta, Nittambu Road, Kirindiwela.

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

5. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to HCL Technologies Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2291/25 of 03rd August 2022, which was presented on 20.09.2022, be approved.

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. Imran Maharroof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.41 a.m. Hon. Imran Maharroof took the Chair.)

(At 1.15 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.10 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 3.20 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2290/19 of 27th July 2022, which was presented on 20.09.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.1) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2294/29 of 23rd August 2022, which were presented on 22.09.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.2) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2294/30 of 23rd August 2022, which were presented on 22.09.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties that have arisen in relation to enhancing the rank in the Ease of Doing Business Index in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations :

Hon. Madhura Withanage seconded by Hon. Isuru Dodangoda moved,— Whereas the ranking of Sri Lanka in the Ease of Doing Business Index managed by the World Bank has come down during the recent times;

Whereas enhancing that rank will help attracting foreign investments to this country and encouraging large-scale and small & medium-scale enterprises in the local public and private sector as well as youth entrepreneurship;

Whereas it will make a tremendous contribution in relation to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals that are expected to be achieved in 2030;

Whereas fetching of investments for the business opportunities existing in the fields already identified, viz. renewable energy, agro-production, health services, waste management, information technology & software and tourist hotels will mainly pave way to combat poverty, to bring about food security, ensure a quality health status, create clean sources of energy and to advance the economy while directing towards a sustainable pattern of consumption will give opportunity to create a quality environment;

Whereas it has been identified that various difficulties have to be faced in enhancing the Ease of Doing Business Index; and

Whereas our country remains ranked very low according to the many international indicators that measure the efficiency of the public sector, productivity and social & living standard and the country's image has been greatly blemished because of that.

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to conduct a comprehensive study in that regard and present its proposals and recommendations to develop a national policy promptly.

2. (a) that the Chair and Member of the Committee and shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
- (b) the Committee shall not consists of more than twelve (12) Members, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 101.

3. The Committee shall have the power to—

- (a) fix its quorum;
- (b) summon any person to appear before it, to order to produce any document or record, to direct to submit any leaflet, a book, a report or a document at his disposal;
- (c) hold a meeting at any location within the country outside Parliament;
- (d) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
- (e) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.

4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of six months (06) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—
That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.08 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 05, 2022.