



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 20.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, October 05, 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. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation

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

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands

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. 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. 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. 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. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

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. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
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. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
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. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
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. 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. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
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. 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 inform that the Hon. M. Rameshwaran, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the National Council to fill the vacancy occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. Jeevan Thondaman, Member of Parliament, from the Membership of the National Council, and in addition, the Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Member of Parliament, has also been nominated to serve in the National Council.”

II

“A motion may be moved to refer the question of privilege raised by the Hon. Samanpriya Herath, MP in Parliament on 04th October 2022 to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2296/12 of 08th September 2022 by amending the Regulations which was published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2234/19 of 30th June 2021 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 Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2300/08 of 03rd October 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.

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

(3) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs for the year 2021.

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

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Order made by the President under Section 3(1) of the Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977 relating to Extradition Treaty between Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates;
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board for the year 2014;
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board for the year 2015;
- (iv) Annual Report of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board for the year 2016;
- (v) Annual Report of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board for the year 2017;
- (vi) Annual Report of the National Building Research Organization for the year 2016;
- (vii) Annual Report of the National Building Research Organization for the year 2017;
- (viii) Annual Report of the Disaster Management Centre for the year 2018;
- (ix) Annual Report & Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the year 2019;
- (x) Annual Report & Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the year 2020;
- (xi) Annual Report of the Defence Services Command and Staff College for the year 2019;
- (xii) Annual Report of the Defence Services Command and Staff College for the year 2020;
- (xiii) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (xiv) Annual Report of the Ranaviru Seva Authority for the year 2020; and
- (xv) Annual Report of the Ranaviru Seva Authority for the year 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 08.04.2022 from Mr. G. C. Samanthilaka of No. 206, Assallakanda, Kondagala, Nelundeniya;
 - (ii) a petition dated 01.04.2022 from Mr. G. M. Devapriya Muhandiram of Pahala Madugastenna, Malmaduwa; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 05.08.2022 from Mr. R. A. Basil Anthony Perera of Uragala Janapadaya, Levant Road, Nawata, Yatiyanthota.
- (2) Hon. Premalal Jayasekara presented a petition dated 30.08.2022 from Mr. K. W. C. N. Dayarathne of Halkandaliya, Nivithigala.
- (3) Hon. Sisira Jayakody presented a petition dated 25.08.2022 from Mr. R. P. K. A. W. K. Ranasinghe of No. 90/5, Ranasinghe Mawatha, Meegahawatta, Siyambalape.

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

5. Order under the Extradition Law : 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 President under Section 3(1) of the Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977 relating to Extradition Treaty between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2282/19 of 31st May 2022, which was presented on 29.08.2022, be approved.

(At 11.47 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.00 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

6. Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament : Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (22nd September, 2022),— “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 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 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 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 shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of the Committee.”

Question again proposed; debate resumed.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.21 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. Imran Maharoof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.00 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

(At 3.30 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That the Amendments to the Standing Orders of Parliament be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Standing Order 8

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed another amendment to leave out “At 4.30 p.m.” in the Standing Order 8(5) and 8(6) of the Parliament and substitute “At 5.00 p.m.” therefor.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 8 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 9

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 9 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today’s Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed another amendment to leave out “At 4.30 p.m.” in the proviso of the Standing Order 9 of the Parliament and substitute “At 5.00 p.m.” therefor.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 9 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 19

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 19 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today’s Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed another amendment to leave out “At 4.30 p.m.” in the Standing Order 19(5) of the Parliament and substitute “At 5.00 p.m.” therefor.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 19 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 50

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 50 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today’s Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 50 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 52

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 52 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 52 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 54

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 54 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 54 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 55

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 55 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 55 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 57

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 57 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 57 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 58

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 58 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 58 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 68

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 68 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 68 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 70

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 70 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 70 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 72

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 72 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 72 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 111

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 111 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 111 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 112

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 112 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 112 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 119

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 119 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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 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 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed another amendment to leave out Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament and substitute the following part therefor:—

“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 and the respective Minister shall submit the observations and actions taken in that regard to Parliament within eight weeks, and also submit a statement of actions proposed to be taken with regard to the observations or if the Minister is of the view that particular recommendation may not be fulfilled, the Minister shall explain the reasons 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. When Parliament so decides, the report concerned may be referred to the Attorney General for his observations and necessary action.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 119 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 120

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 120 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed another amendment to leave out Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament and substitute the following part therefor:—

“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 and the respective Minister shall submit the observations and actions taken in that regard to Parliament within eight weeks, and also submit a statement of actions proposed to be taken with regard to the observations or if the Minister is of the view that particular recommendation may not be fulfilled, the Minister shall explain the reasons 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. When Parliament so decides, the report concerned may be referred to the Attorney General for his observations and necessary action.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 120 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 121

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 121 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 121 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Standing Order 122

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to leave out Standing Order 122 of the Parliament and substitute the following new Standing Order on today's Order Paper 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 shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of the Committee."

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Standing Order 122 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

It was reported that the Amendments to the 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 were considered in the Committee and passed with amendments.

The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this House do grant permission to the Secretary-General of Parliament to correct the language, typographical, grammatical, numerical errors of the amended Standing Orders of the Parliament and to make the necessary corrections and consequential amendments to the Standing Orders.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 3.51 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, October 06, 2022.