



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 28.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, November 09, 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair 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. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and Chief Government Whip

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

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. 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, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

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, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
Hon. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply
Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe

Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Child Protection Authority for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2278/21 of 06th May 2022; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2285/19 of 24th June 2022

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

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Civil Security for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2304/51 of 03rd November 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 Report and Papers do lie upon the **Table**.

(4) The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation presented the Annual Report of the State Timber Corporation for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the State Ministry of National Heritage, Performing Arts & Rural Arts Promotion Affairs for the year 2021.

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

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

- (i) Annual Reports of the Shrama Vasana Fund for the years 2019 and 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Employees' Provident Fund for the year 2020

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour and Foreign Employment.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report & Accounts of the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Co- operative Development—Polgolla for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. K. Kader Masthan, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Nalin Fernando, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of Co-Operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of Co-Operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2018;
- (iii) Annual Report of Lanka Sathosa Limited for the year 2018;
- (iv) Annual Report of Consumer Affairs Authority for the year 2016;
- (v) Annual Report of Consumer Affairs Authority for the year 2020; and
- (vi) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment for the year 2016

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Vijitha Herath presented a petition dated 13.10.2022 from Mr. E. K. Dharmapala of Hithathatiya watta, Welihinda, Denipitiya.
- (2) Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe presented a petition dated 11.07.2022 from Mrs. P. M. Muthumanika of Piscal Niwasa, Ihala Neththipalagama, Konwewa.
- (3) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 16.09.2022 from Mr. G. Suminda Jayasiri of Sanasuma, Diddenipotha, Makandura; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 06.09.2022 from Mrs. Iranga Samindanie Weerakkody of No. 08, Udyana Mawatha, Colombo 05.
- (4) Hon. Imran Maharoof presented a petition dated 30.09.2022 from Mr. A. H. M. Jameen of Alli Nagar, No. 07, Thoppur.
- (5) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented a petition dated 09.09.2022 from Mr. R. M. N. Rajapakshe of No. 208 C, Madipola Road, Wasala Kotte, Matale.

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

4. Order under the Value Added Tax Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2A of Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002 as amended by Act, No. 6 of 2005, relating to the Value Added Tax and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2282/26 of 31st May 2022, which was presented on 03.10.2022, be approved.

(At 11.13 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Livestock Development moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.03 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation moved,— That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.12 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No.1) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 22(1) of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise Duty on Bottled Toddy, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2277/62 of 29th April 2022, which was presented on 03.10.2022, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 03/2022)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No.2) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 32 read with Section 22 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise Duty on Ethyl Alcohol, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2283/28 of 08th June 2022, which was presented on 03.10.2022, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 04/2022)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Finance Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 regarding on Embarkation Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2272/53 of 27th March 2022, which was presented on 03.10.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the 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, which were presented on 05.10.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.1) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2297/79 of 16th September 2022, which were presented on 18.10.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.2) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2298/55 of 23rd September 2022, which were presented on 18.10.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Adjournment : And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2022.