



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 32.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe, State Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

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

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

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

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs

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. 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. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education

Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy

Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development

Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education

Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation

Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing

Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology

Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

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. Gevindu Cumaratunga

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda

Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena

Hon. Milan Jayathilake

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
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. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Dhammika Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar

Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/29 of 09th August 2022;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/41 of 10th August 2022;

- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2295/44 of 03rd September 2022;
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2298/51 of 22nd September 2022;
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2301/40 of 13th October 2022;
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 14(2) of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/32 of 09th August 2022;
- (vii) Resolution under Section 10A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties.
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/31 of 09th August 2022); and
- (viii) Resolution under Section 10A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties.
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2300/27 of 06th October 2022).

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

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Employees' Trust Fund Board for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Development Lotteries Board for the year 2020; and
- (iii) Integrated Annual Report of the National Savings Bank for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Report & Accounts of the Post Graduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine of the Colombo University for the year 2020; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology of the University of Kelaniya for the year 2020

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Technical Education & Training for the year 2021.

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

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Promoting the Production & Regulating the Supply of Organic Fertilizer and Paddy & Grains, Organic Foods, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promoting, Seed Production and Advanced Technology Agriculture for the year 2021.

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

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

- (i) Performance Report of the State Ministry of Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development for the year 2021;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Commissioner General of Land Title Settlement for the financial year 2021; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Land Commissioner General's Department for the year 2021.

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

(8) The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries presented the Annual Report of the Thurusaviya Fund for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Performance Report of the Department of Cultural Affairs for the year 2020.

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

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Chair of the Sub - Committee in identifying Short and Medium Term Programmes related Economic Stabilization of the National Council of the Ninth Parliament presented the First Report of the said Committee which was presented to the National Council.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne presented a petition dated 09.03.2022 from Mr. Guruge Upul Chandrasekera of No. 161/A1, Kottiya watta, Ingiriya.
- (2) Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake presented a petition dated 22.10.2022 from Mr. Don Gamini Sumith Welikala of No. 179, Baddekumbura, Spring Valley, Badulla.
- (3) Hon. Tissa Attanayake presented a petition dated 14.10.2022 from Mr. K. P. Sirisena of Yaya10, Nugagolla, Matale.
- (4) Hon. Waruna Liyanage presented a petition dated 23.08.2022 from Mrs. M. M. B. Manike of No. 126 B/1, Gangodagama, Wewalwatta, Ratnapura.

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

4. Appropriation (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented,—“Bill to amend the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

5. Appropriation Bill — (First Allotted Day) : Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question (14th November 2022),—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question again proposed, and debate resumed.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.44 a.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.02 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.06 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Fisheries moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.13 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

6. Adjournment (Title Deeds for Estate Workers) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.55 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 10th November, 2022.