



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 41.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, November 25, 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. 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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health and Minister of Water Supply

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Health

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

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. Premalal Jayasekara, State Minister of Ports and Aviation
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, 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. 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. 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. 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. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharroof
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. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
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. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law
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. Heshu Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
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 : The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the National Library & Documentation Services Board for the year 2018; and
- (ii) Annual Reports of the University of Vocational Technology for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020

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

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Sanath Nishantha, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2012;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2015;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2017;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2018;
- (v) Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2019;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2020;
- (vii) Annual Report of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board for the year 2017;
- (viii) Annual Report of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board for the year 2018;
- (ix) Annual Report of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board for the year 2019; and
- (x) Annual Report of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board for the year 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda presented a petition dated 11.11.2022 from Mr. L. I. Kumara Pathirana of No. G2/14, Housing Scheme, Sewanagala.

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

4. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 2 to 11 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Appropriation Bill — (Tenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 119

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.00 a.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 12.32 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 2.02 p.m. Hon. Heshu Withanage took the Chair.)

(At 4.46 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 6.09 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Question that the sum of Rs. 766,000,000 for Head 119, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 36,093,000,000 for Head 119, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 234,000,000 for Head 119, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 107,000,000 for Head 119, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 166

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 549,300,000 for Head 166, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 62,200,000 for Head 166, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 71,803,000,000 for Head 166, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 332

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 420,600,000 for Head 332, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,539,000,000 for Head 332, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Whereupon the Minister of Education proposed that the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Saturday, November 26, 2022.

6. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council (2019) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 10.03.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board (2017) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 23.03.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited (2017) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 05.04.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (2017) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 20.07.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (2018) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 20.07.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Annual Report of the Ceylon Electricity Board (2019) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Electricity Board for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 05.08.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited (2018) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 21.10.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited (2019) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 21.10.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board (2018) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 22.10.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Annual Report of the Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 22.03.2022 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 6.53 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, November 26, 2022 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 19th November 2022.