



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 39.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, November 23, 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

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

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

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

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

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

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

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

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

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. Sivaneshathurai 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. 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. 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 Private 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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, 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. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando

Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
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 Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
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. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Kumara Welgama

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

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. Abdul Haleem

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. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/1/12/7

November 21, 2022

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,


Ranil Wickremesinghe
President

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled ‘Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment)’ on 23rd November 2022.”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the Disaster Management Centre for the years 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2020 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Recommendations to the Hon. President by the Finance Commission for the year 2023; and
- (ii) List of Proposed Alterations in the Legends of Draft Estimates - 2023

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

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2012;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2013;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2014;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2015;

(v) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2016; and

(vi) Annual Report of the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2018 which were referred to the Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. Samanpriya Herath presented a petition dated 15.11.2022 from Mr. D. M. Wasantha Pushpakumara of Swarna Villa, Puttalam Road, Arachchikattuwa.

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

6. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 2 and 3 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.

7. Appropriation Bill — (Eighth Allotted Day) : Considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 10 were postponed until after consideration of the First, Second and Third Schedules.

First Schedule

Sums Payable for General Services.

Head 1

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 12.11 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara seconded by Hon. Lalith Ellawala moved,—That Hon. Asanka Navarathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.31 p.m. Hon. Asanka Navarathna took the Chair.)

(At 2.24 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

(At 4.29 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

(At 4.55 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

(At 6.19 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,794,350,000 for Head 1, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 487,800,000 for Head 1, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 500,000,000 for Head 1, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 2

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 925,700,000 for Head 2, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 86,300,000 for Head 2, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 4

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 383,500,000 for Head 4, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 13,500,000 for Head 4, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 5

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 178,300,000 for Head 5, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 85,000,000 for Head 5, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 6

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 308,840,000 for Head 6, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 13,100,000 for Head 6, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 7

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 102,620,000 for Head 7, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 800,000 for Head 7, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 8

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 148,700,000 for Head 8, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,700,000 for Head 8, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 9

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 33,700,000 for Head 9, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 300,000 for Head 9, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 10

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 781,560,000 for Head 10, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 28,800,000 for Head 10, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 11

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 110,400,000 for Head 11, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,300,000 for Head 11, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 13

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 282,300,000 for Head 13, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,000,000 for Head 13, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 16

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,695,950,000 for Head 16, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 120,200,000 for Head 16, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 17

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 69,850,000 for Head 17, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 700,000 for Head 17, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 18

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 159,000,000 for Head 18, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,000,000 for Head 18, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 19

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 215,500,000 for Head 19, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 19,700,000 for Head 19, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 20

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,903,660,000 for Head 20, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 86,000,000 for Head 20, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 21

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,457,430,000 for Head 21, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 21,000,000 for Head 21, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 22

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 54,280,000 for Head 22, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 300,000 for Head 22, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 25

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 17,300,000 for Head 25, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 100,000 for Head 25, 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 Thursday, November 24, 2022.

8. Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the following recommendations of the Committee on Standing Orders relating to the amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament made in their Report which was presented to Parliament on 18th November 2022 be agreed to:—

That the following two new Standing Orders be inserted as Standing Order 122 and 123 of the Parliament immediately after the existing Standing Order 121 of the Parliament thereto:—

New Standing Order 122,—

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Banking and Financial Services consisting of sixteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection.
- (2) The Committee shall have power as follows:—
 - (a) to consider and report on professional standards and culture of the Sri Lankan banking, insurance and other financial sector services;
 - (b) to make recommendations on reforms for creating improved functioning and diverse banking, insurance and other financial sector services, in order to empower consumers and provide greater discipline on these institutions to raise standards and provide recommendations for legislative and other regulatory actions;
 - (c) to study and review on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to international economic policy, overseas financial services Regulations, and its effects on Sri Lankan monetary affairs, credit and financial services and economic growth;
 - (d) to review on a continuous basis, matters relating to monetary policy including Central Bank Reserve System, export and foreign trade promotion, export controls, import controls, financial aid to commerce, industry and small and medium enterprises, financial markets, financial procedures, performance and management of financial institutions, issuance and redemption of notes, coinage and currency, matters relating to disbursement and recovery of loans; and provide recommendations to ensure the stability and continuance of the financial sector;
 - (e) to conduct and examine regulatory and competitive investigations into the Sri Lanka Inter Bank Offered Rate (SLIBOR) setting process;
 - (f) to review the co-operate governance, performance and management, transparency and conflicts of interest relating to state financial institutions and financial services provides including insurance;

- (g) to conduct policy reviews of the responsibilities of the Government, and of future Governments and Parliament in respect of financial policy and financial institutions including insurance;
 - (h) to examine and report on the performance and management of the Securities Exchange Commission and capital market developments;
 - (i) to examine and report on the performance and management of the Colombo Stock Exchange.
- (3) The Committee shall, every three months report to Parliament on its findings of any state-owned Bank, or of any other institution providing financial services including Insurance, or other undertaking vested under any written law in the Government and on any matter arising therefrom. The report shall also include observations on matters that require remedial action, and recommendations if any.
- (4) A report of the Committee, 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. 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 shall as required appoint Sub-Committees of its Members to look at any institution, provided that other Members of Parliament may attend any such Sub-Committee meeting if they so wish. Such Sub-Committee shall report to the Committee on such matters as the Committee deem necessary; and
- (b) The Committee or any Sub-Committees appointed by the Committee shall as required have sittings in Parliamentary Complex or any relevant institutions as decided by the Committee.
- (6) Members of Parliament who are not Members of the Committee may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.
- (7) The Committee on Banking and Financial Services 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.
- (8) The quorum of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services 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.

New Standing Order 123,—**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STABILIZATION**

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Economic Stabilization consisting of sixteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection.
- (2) The functions of the Committee on Economic Stabilization are:—
 - (a) to examine the performance, management, operational efficiency, policy framework, legal framework and risk management of state-owned enterprises;
 - (b) to examine the financial stability, debt management, profit and investment management of state-owned enterprises;
 - (c) to examine the requirements for divestiture, opportunities for public-private partnerships and strategies to minimize losses and enhance profits of state-owned enterprises; and
 - (d) to examine human resource management, reduction of excessive or surplus staff, non-payment of wages and statutory dues, over payments of wages and allowances pertaining to those who are employed by the state-owned enterprises.
- (3) The Committee shall, every three months report to Parliament on its findings of any state-owned enterprises governed by the Finance Act, No 38 of 1971 and the Companies Act, No. 7 of 2007.
- (4) A report of the Committee on Economic Stabilization, 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 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. 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 matter within eight weeks.
- (5)
 - (a) The Committee 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 such matters as the Committee deem necessary.
 - (b) The Committee or any Sub-Committees appointed by the Committee shall as required have sittings in Parliamentary Complex or any relevant institutions as decided by the Committee.
- (6) Members of Parliament who are not Members of the Committee may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.

(7) The Committee on Economic Stabilization 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.

(8) The quorum of the Committee on Economic Stabilization 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 proposed.

The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That the Parliament do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to insert the following new Standing Order of today's Order Paper immediately after the existing Standing Order 121 of the Parliament as Standing Order 122:—

“COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

122. (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Banking and Financial Services consisting of sixteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) The Committee shall have power as follows:—

- (a) to consider and report on professional standards and culture of the Sri Lankan banking, insurance and other financial sector services;
- (b) to make recommendations on reforms for creating improved functioning and diverse banking, insurance and other financial sector services, in order to empower consumers and provide greater discipline on these institutions to raise standards and provide recommendations for legislative and other regulatory actions;
- (c) to study and review on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to international economic policy, overseas financial services Regulations, and its effects on Sri Lankan monetary affairs, credit and financial services and economic growth;
- (d) to review on a continuous basis, matters relating to monetary policy including Central Bank Reserve System, export and foreign trade promotion,

export controls, import controls, financial aid to commerce, industry and small and medium enterprises, financial markets, financial procedures, performance and management of financial institutions, issuance and redemption of notes, coinage and currency, matters relating to disbursement and recovery of loans; and provide recommendations to ensure the stability and continuance of the financial sector;

- (e) to conduct and examine regulatory and competitive investigations into the Sri Lanka Inter Bank Offered Rate (SLIBOR) setting process;
 - (f) to review the co-operate governance, performance and management, transparency and conflicts of interest relating to state financial institutions and financial services provides including insurance;
 - (g) to conduct policy reviews of the responsibilities of the Government, and of future Governments and Parliament in respect of financial policy and financial institutions including insurance;
 - (h) to examine and report on the performance and management of the Securities Exchange Commission and capital market developments;
 - (i) to examine and report on the performance and management of the Colombo Stock Exchange.
- (3) The Committee shall, every three months report to Parliament on its findings of any state-owned Bank, or of any other institution providing financial services including Insurance, or other undertaking vested under any written law in the Government and on any matter arising therefrom. The report shall also include observations on matters that require remedial action, and recommendations if any.
- (4) A report of the Committee, 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. 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 shall as required appoint Sub-Committees of its Members to look at any institution, provided that other Members of Parliament may attend any such Sub-Committee meeting if they so wish. Such Sub-Committee shall report to the Committee on such matters as the Committee deem necessary; and
- (b) The Committee or any Sub-Committees appointed by the Committee shall as required have sittings in Parliamentary Complex or any relevant institutions as decided by the Committee.

(6) Members of Parliament who are not Members of the Committee may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.

(7) The Committee on Banking and Financial Services 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.

(8) The quorum of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services 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 new Standing Order be added to the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed another amendment to insert the following new Standing Order of today's Order Paper immediately after the above inserted Standing Order 122 of the Parliament as Standing Order 123:—

“COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STABILIZATION

123. (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Economic Stabilization consisting of sixteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) The functions of the Committee on Economic Stabilization are:—

- (a) to examine the performance, management, operational efficiency, policy framework, legal framework and risk management of state-owned enterprises;
- (b) to examine the financial stability, debt management, profit and investment management of state-owned enterprises;
- (c) to examine the requirements for divestiture, opportunities for public-private partnerships and strategies to minimize losses and enhance profits of state-owned enterprises; and
- (d) to examine human resource management, reduction of excessive or surplus staff, non-payment of wages and statutory dues, over payments of wages and allowances pertaining to those who are employed by the state-owned enterprises.

(3) The Committee shall, every three months report to Parliament on its findings of any state-owned enterprises governed by the Finance Act, No 38 of 1971 and the Companies Act, No. 7 of 2007.

(4) A report of the Committee on Economic Stabilization, 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 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. 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 matter within eight weeks.

- (5) (a) The Committee 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 such matters as the Committee deem necessary.
- (b) The Committee or any Sub-Committees appointed by the Committee shall as required have sittings in Parliamentary Complex or any relevant institutions as decided by the Committee.

(6) Members of Parliament who are not Members of the Committee may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.

(7) The Committee on Economic Stabilization 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.

(8) The quorum of the Committee on Economic Stabilization 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 new Standing Order be added to the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Parliament Resumed.

It was reported that the Standing Orders 122 and 123 of the Parliament were considered in the Committee and passed.

9. Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament (No. 2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That the following recommendations of the Committee on Standing Orders relating to the amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament made in their Report which was presented to Parliament on 21st November 2022 be agreed to:—

That the following new Standing Order be inserted as Standing Order 124 of the Parliament immediately after the proposed Standing Order 123 of the Parliament thereto:—

New Standing Order 124,—

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Ways and Means for the purpose of recommending measures necessary to mobilize additional revenue for the Government and to consider its expenditure in strengthening the economic

stability of the country consisting of sixteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) The Committee shall have the power to examine all matters related to taxation, tariff and other revenue enhancing measures for the government, propose changes to the existing policies on taxation and tariffs as and when necessary.

(3) In discharging the duties of the Committee, the Committee shall examine and provide recommendations on:—

- (a) Effective revenue collection mechanisms;
- (b) Matters relating to the Inland Revenue Laws, and revenue measures specified in other Laws;
- (c) Matters relating to customs and customs administration which includes tariff, customs laws, policies and guidelines that are applicable in imports and exports;
- (d) Matters relating to international trade including all types of trade agreements, Commodity agreements and their implementation as well as the international rules and recognized aspects of these agreements;
- (e) Matters relating to the import industry including their impacts, import policies, mechanisms to promote competitive import market and measures to address harmful and unfair imports and such import practices;
- (f) Specific matters relating to trade industry including export policies, export promotion mechanisms, market access and competition, continuous supply of material required by the industries, bilateral and multilateral trade relations;
- (g) Matters relating to all government pensions, healthcare, welfare and social security schemes, their payments and policies, government social services programmes including childcare programmes, programmes for persons with physical or mental disabilities, rehabilitation programmes; and
- (h) Matters relating to the provision of emergency reliefs and related policies.

(4) The Committee shall have the general oversight powers on all matters within the scope of the Committee but limited to existing laws:

Provided that the Committee may make recommendations on the enactment of new laws, to introduce amendments to or repeal of existing laws on matters coming within the purview of the Committee.

(5) The Committee shall, every three months report to Parliament on its findings and the report shall also include observations on matters that require remedial actions, and recommendations if any.

(6) A report of the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 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. 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 matter within eight weeks.

(7) The Committee 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 such matters as the Committee deem necessary.

(8) The Committee or any Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee shall as required have sittings in Parliamentary Complex or any relevant institutions as decided by the Committee.

(9) Members of Parliament who are not Members of the Committee may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.

(10) The Committee on Ways and Means 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.

(11) The quorum of the Committee on Ways and Means 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.

That the existing Standing Order 118 of the Parliament be deleted and the following new Standing Order be substituted therefor:—

118. (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Ethics and Privileges consisting of not more than ten Members nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) The functions of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges are—

(a) A complaint that is submitted to the Parliament, by a Member of Parliament, with reference to a matter in respect to a violation of ethics and rules of the Code of Conduct of the Members of Parliament or a violation of the privileges of the Parliament or a Member of Parliament, shall be examined, provided that the Speaker is satisfied that such complaint so submitted, *prima facie*, is a breach of privilege; and

(b) to determine with reference to the facts of each case whether a breach of Privilege on the rules of conduct and etiquette has been committed and if so, the nature of the breach, the circumstances leading to such breach and its recommendations as the Committee may deem fit.

(3) Such a complaint that is submitted to the Committee should be forwarded to the Speaker with recommendations of the Committee, within two weeks from the date of receipt. However, the Speaker has the authority to grant permission to a request to extend the said period on exceptional grounds. The Committee shall have the power to summon persons, and call for documents and other records and to do other acts as are necessary for the examination of the matters so referred to it.

(4) The Committee shall also examine any matter referred to it in relation to a violation or non-adherence of the rules of the Code of Conduct of the Members of Parliament. Every Member shall co-operate, at all stages, with any such examination by or under the authority of Parliament. No Member shall lobby a Member of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in a manner calculated or intended to influence its consideration of an alleged breach of the rules of Code of Conduct.

(5) In the performance of its duties the Committee may obtain the services of experts, call for documents and summon and examine witnesses.

(6) The Parliament may consider conclusions and recommendations made in the report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges and may impose sanctions on Members concerned where it deems necessary.

(7) The Committee may, from time to time, make rules to regulate its procedure.

(8) The Chair of the Committee may issue such directions as the Chair may consider necessary for regulating the procedure in respect of all matters connected with the examination of cases with reference to ethical and other misconduct of Members.

Question proposed.

The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That the Parliament do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed an amendment to insert the following new Standing Order of today's Order Paper immediately after the above Standing Order 123 of the Parliament as Standing Order 124:—

“COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

124. (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Ways and Means for the purpose of recommending measures necessary to mobilize additional revenue for the Government and to consider its expenditure in strengthening the economic stability of the country consisting of sixteen Members, who are not members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) The Committee shall have the power to examine all matters related to taxation, tariff and other revenue enhancing measures for the government, propose changes to the existing policies on taxation and tariffs as and when necessary.

(3) In discharging the duties of the Committee, the Committee shall examine and provide recommendations on:—

- (a) Effective revenue collection mechanisms;
- (b) Matters relating to the Inland Revenue Laws, and revenue measures specified in other Laws;
- (c) Matters relating to customs and customs administration which includes tariff, customs laws, policies and guidelines that are applicable in imports and exports;
- (d) Matters relating to international trade including all types of trade agreements, Commodity agreements and their implementation as well as the international rules and recognized aspects of these agreements;
- (e) Matters relating to the import industry including their impacts, import policies, mechanisms to promote competitive import market and measures to address harmful and unfair imports and such import practices;
- (f) Specific matters relating to trade industry including export policies, export promotion mechanisms, market access and competition, continuous supply of material required by the industries, bilateral and multilateral trade relations;
- (g) Matters relating to all government pensions, healthcare, welfare and social security schemes, their payments and policies, government social services programmes including childcare programmes, programmes for persons with physical or mental disabilities, rehabilitation programmes; and
- (h) Matters relating to the provision of emergency reliefs and related policies.

(4) The Committee shall have the general oversight powers on all matters within the scope of the Committee but limited to existing laws:

Provided that the Committee may make recommendations on the enactment of new laws, to introduce amendments to or repeal of existing laws on matters coming within the purview of the Committee.

(5) The Committee shall, every three months report to Parliament on its findings and the report shall also include observations on matters that require remedial actions, and recommendations if any.

(6) A report of the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 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. 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 matter within eight weeks.

(7) The Committee 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 such matters as the Committee deem necessary.

(8) The Committee or any Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee shall as required have sittings in Parliamentary Complex or any relevant institutions as decided by the Committee.

(9) Members of Parliament who are not Members of the Committee may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.

(10) The Committee on Ways and Means 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.

(11) The quorum of the Committee on Ways and Means 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 new Standing Order be added to the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

The Leader of the House of Parliament proposed another amendment to leave out Standing Order 118 of the Parliament and substitute the following Standing Order of today's Order Paper therefor:—

“**118.** (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Ethics and Privileges consisting of not more than ten Members nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) The functions of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges are—

(a) A complaint that is submitted to the Parliament, by a Member of Parliament, with reference to a matter in respect to a violation of ethics and rules of the Code of Conduct of the Members of Parliament or a violation of the privileges of the Parliament or a Member of Parliament, shall be examined, provided that the Speaker is satisfied that such complaint so submitted, prima facie, is a breach of privilege; and

(b) to determine with reference to the facts of each case whether a breach of Privilege on the rules of conduct and etiquette has been committed and if so, the nature of the breach, the circumstances leading to such breach and its recommendations as the Committee may deem fit.

(3) Such a complaint that is submitted to the Committee should be forwarded to the Speaker with recommendations of the Committee, within two weeks from the date of receipt. However, the Speaker has the authority to grant permission to a request to extend the said period on exceptional grounds. The Committee shall have the power to

summon persons, and call for documents and other records and to do other acts as are necessary for the examination of the matters so referred to it.

(4) The Committee shall also examine any matter referred to it in relation to a violation or non-adherence of the rules of the Code of Conduct of the Members of Parliament. Every Member shall co-operate, at all stages, with any such examination by or under the authority of Parliament. No Member shall lobby a Member of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in a manner calculated or intended to influence its consideration of an alleged breach of the rules of Code of Conduct.

(5) In the performance of its duties the Committee may obtain the services of experts, call for documents and summon and examine witnesses.

(6) The Parliament may consider conclusions and recommendations made in the report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges and may impose sanctions on Members concerned where it deems necessary.

(7) The Committee may, from time to time, make rules to regulate its procedure.

(8) The Chair of the Committee may issue such directions as the Chair may consider necessary for regulating the procedure in respect of all matters connected with the examination of cases with reference to ethical and other misconduct of Members.”

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

Question that the Standing Order 118 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders of Parliament, put and agreed to.

Parliament Resumed.

It was reported that the Standing Order 124 and 118 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.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 6.42 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, November 24, 2022 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 19th November 2022.