



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 47.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, December 02, 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. 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. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

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

Hon. Sivaneshathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

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

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
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. 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. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. 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. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. 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. 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. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
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. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
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. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

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 Speaker presented—

- (i) Fourth Installment – Part XXVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;
- (ii) Fourth Installment – Part XXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020; and
- (iii) First Installment – Parts XX, XXI and XXII, Fourth Installment – Parts XIV and XV and Sixth Installment – Parts III, IV and V of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Speaker presented—

- (i) Eighth Installment – Part XI of the Performance Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluating the Role of Related Government Institutions to Reduce the Traffic Congestion in Colombo City and Surrounding Access Roads; and
- (ii) Tenth Installment – Part VI of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on the Unilateral Termination of the Light Rail Transit System Project (from Colombo to Malabe) by the Government of Sri Lanka

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for the year 2021.

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

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour and Foreign Employment.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife & Forest Resources Conservation presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the State Timber Corporation for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Timber Corporation for the year 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Kapila Athukorala, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Harin Fernando, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism and Lands presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau for the year 2014;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau for the year 2016;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Botanical Gardens Trust Fund for the year 2017;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Tourism Development Fund for the year 2017;
- (v) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management for the year 2019;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau for the year 2019;
- (vii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for the year 2019;
- (viii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau for the year 2020; and
- (ix) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management for the year 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Appropriation Bill — (Sixteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 160

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.44 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

(At 12.39 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

(At 1.39 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.06 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 3.02 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 4.19 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

(At 6.03 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Question that the sum of Rs. 759,600,000 for Head 160, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 15,100,000 for Head 160, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 804,000,000 for Head 160, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 643,900,000 for Head 160, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 16 in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 3,715,000,000”

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

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 161

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 405,800,000 for Head 161, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 14,000,000 for Head 161, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 20 in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities — 2,354,000,000”

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

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 283

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,800,100,000 for Head 283, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 916,000,000 for Head 283, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 284

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,157,000,000 for Head 284, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 260,000,000 for Head 284, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 294

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 593,100,000 for Head 294, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 171,000,000 for Head 294, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Tourism and Lands

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 19 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 3,850,000,000”

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

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 122

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 653,200,000 for Head 122, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 111,800,000 for Head 122, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 in page 19 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities — 2,880,000,000”

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

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 286

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 578,000,000 for Head 286, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 72,000,000 for Head 286, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 287

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 668,000,000 for Head 287, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 12,000,000 for Head 287, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 288

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 291,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 139,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,140,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 430,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 322

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 630,500,000 for Head 322, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 169,500,000 for Head 322, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 327

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 539,300,000 for Head 327, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 35,700,000 for Head 327, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 7.00 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Saturday, December 03, 2022.

4. Adjournment : And it being 7.00 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, December 03, 2022 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 19th November, 2022.