



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 49.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, December 05, 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. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media

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

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. 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. Kanchana Wijesekera, 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. 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. 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. 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. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education

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

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

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

Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation

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

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

Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade

Hon. 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. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. Piyanakara 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. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha 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. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
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. 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. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
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. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Kabir Hashim
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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to announce that the report carried by the ‘Sunday Times’ of Sunday the 04th December 2022 under the caption ‘Committee rejects move to increase retirement age of Parliament Secretary General’ is a wrong report.

I wish to reiterate that no discussion whatsoever on the retirement age of the Secretary General of Parliament took place at the meeting of the Staff Advisory Committee of Parliament held at my Chamber under my chairmanship and the discussion on that day was solely on the retirement age of the staff of Parliament as a whole.

I also wish to inform that no discussion pertaining to the matters of the personal staff of the Secretary General of Parliament as outlined by the said report took place at that meeting.

Further, I wish to state that I strictly warn the Editor of the ‘Sunday Times’ to ensure that he takes steps to look into matters carefully and report with more responsibility and accuracy in newspaper reporting.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation presented the Annual Report of the Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2018; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Official Languages Commission for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Official Languages Commission for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka institute of Development Administration for the year 2019; and

- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance for the year 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance for the year 2016;
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Education and Training for the year 2017;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Official Languages Commission for the year 2018;
- (v) Annual Report of the Distance Learning Centre for the year 2018; and
- (vi) Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented Report of the said Committee on the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) for the year 2018 which was referred to the Committee.

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

(5) Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Report of the said Committee on the Order made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 2 of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, No. 25 of 2002 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2301/33 of 12th October 2022 which was referred to the Committee.

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

(6) Hon. Kabir Hashim, Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the First, Second and Third Reports of the Committee on Public Accounts for the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. Sanath Nishantha presented a petition dated 10.11.2022 from Mr. H. B. Chandrathilaka of Balamulla Watta, Nape, Thelijjawila.

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

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 176

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Tissa Attanayake proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.49 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 12.27 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

(At 2.33 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 3.43 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 5.11 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 6.10 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Question that the sum of Rs. 403,100,000 for Head 176, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 13,000,000 for Head 176, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,003,000,000 for Head 176, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,140,000,000 for Head 176, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 336

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 109,900,000 for Head 336, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 7,000,000 for Head 336, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 110

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,385,200,000 for Head 110, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,566,200,000 for Head 110, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 228

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 9,465,000,000 for Head 228, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,776,000,000 for Head 228, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 229

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,968,500,000 for Head 229, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 117,500,000 for Head 229, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 230

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 148,700,000 for Head 230, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,100,000 for Head 230, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 231

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 76,600,000 for Head 231, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 900,000 for Head 231, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 24 in page 14 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 5,800,000,000”

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 232

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 13 in page 15 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 01 Operational Activities 9,797,000,000 1,034,000,000”

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 233**Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)**

Question that the sum of Rs. 718,000,000 for Head 233, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 285,000,000 for Head 233, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 234**Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)**

Question that the sum of Rs. 370,000,000 for Head 234, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 5,000,000 for Head 234, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 235**Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)**

Question that the sum of Rs. 21,000,000 for Head 235, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,300,000 for Head 235, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 326

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 550,000,000 for Head 326, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,000,000 for Head 326, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 7.09 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Tuesday, December 06, 2022.

6. Order under the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 2 of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, No. 25 of 2002 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2301/33 of 12th October 2022, which was presented on 19.11.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment : And it being past 7.00 p.m. Parliament was at 7.11 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 06, 2022 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 19th November 2022.