



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 50.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, December 06, 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. (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. Nalin Fernando, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law, Minister of Education and Leader
of the House of Parliament

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and Chief
Government Whip

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

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

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

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

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. Sivanesathurai 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. 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. 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. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
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. 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. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
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. S. B. 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. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
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. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka

Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law
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. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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 announcements:—

I

“I wish to draw your attention to Article 41A(1)(f) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which stipulates the provisions for the appointment of a Member of Parliament nominated by the agreement of the Members of Parliament who do not represent the Government and those who do not belong to the political party or independent group to which the Leader of the Opposition belongs, as a Member of the Constitutional Council.

In view of the above, I wish to convene a meeting on Thursday, 8th December 2022 at 3.00 p.m. in Committee Room No 01 in Parliament, to discuss and elect a Member for the above appointment, and I request all the Members of Parliament who do not represent the Government and who do not belong to the Political Party to which the Leader of the Opposition belong, that is Samagi Jana Balawegaya, to attend the said meeting.

I also wish to inform you that any requests or nominations for the said appointment from the Hon. Members of Parliament, who would not be present at the above meeting, will not be considered.”

II

“I wish to inform that the Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media by the Committee of Selection on 05th December 2022, in terms of provisions of the Standing Order 130(3) of the Parliament to fill the vacancy occurred due to the appointment of the Hon. Shantha Bandara, Member of Parliament as the State Minister of Mass Media.”

III

“I wish to inform that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 119 of Parliament and the motion adopted by Parliament on 18th October 2022, the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Accounts, as per the motion adopted by Parliament on 26th November 2022:—

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Vadivel Suresh”

IV

“I wish to inform that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 120 of Parliament and the motion adopted by Parliament on 18th October 2022, the Hon. M. Rameshwaran has been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Enterprises, as per the motion adopted by Parliament on 26th November 2022.

2. Presentation of Papers : The Minister of Urban Development presented the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2308/62 of 03rd December 2022 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979.

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

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2018;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Milco (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2017; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Ceylon Fertilizer Company Ltd for the year 2017

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Nalin Fernando, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Consumer Affairs Authority for the year 2019;
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Co-operative Development - (Polgolla) for the year 2020;
- (iii) Annual Report & Accounts of the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the year 2020; and
- (iv) Annual Report of the National Institute of Co-operative Development—Polgolla for the year 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Orders under the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007;
- (iii) Resolutions under the Revenue Protection Act, No. 19 of 1962;
- (iv) Orders under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979;
- (v) Orders under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011;
- (vi) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (vii) Fiscal Management Report – 2023; and
- (viii) Resolution under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 25.09.2022 from Mr. B. K. C. Gunasekara of No. 43, “Saman”, Baddegama Road, Hirimbura, Galle; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 15.09.2022 from Mr. G. R. Nishantha of Suramya Road, Gonapinuwala.
- (2) Hon. Wajira Abeywardana presented a petition dated 27.07.2022 from Ms. D. D. Ruwani Madushani of Delgahawatta, Ihala Kombala, Imaduwa.

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

5. Sittings of the Parliament (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the Parliament shall sit on Tuesday, 13th December 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No.2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 18th October 2022, the hours of sittings of Parliament on Tuesday, 13th December 2022 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sittings of the Parliament (No.3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 08th December 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Privileges : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matters raised by the Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law, M.P. on 05th December, 2022 in Parliament to the effect that privileges of Parliament have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Committee on Banking and Financial Services : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 122 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 26th November 2022, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services shall consists of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament, as per the decision taken on 05th December 2022, by the Committee of Selection.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Committee on Economic Stabilization : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 123 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 26th November 2022, the Committee on Economic Stabilization shall consists of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament, as per the decision taken on 05th December 2022, by the Committee of Selection.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Committee on Ways and Means : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 124 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 26th November 2022, the Committee on Ways and Means shall consists of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament, as per the decision taken on 05th December 2022, by the Committee of Selection.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Appropriation Bill — (Nineteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 118

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.06 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 12.37 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

(At 2.16 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

(At 3.52 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 6.11 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Agriculture

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 17 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 34,370,000,000”

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.

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,313,136,000 for Head 118, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 111,025,000 for Head 118, 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 4 in page 18 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 61,906,000,000 25,491,475,000”

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 281

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 584,250,000 for Head 281, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 158,500,000 for Head 281, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 9,075,500,000 for Head 281, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,361,500,000 for Head 281, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 285

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 632,100,000 for Head 285, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 81,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 5,686,914,000 for Head 285, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,299,500,000 for Head 285, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 292

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 802,100,000 for Head 292, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 91,000,000 for Head 292, 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 13 in page 18 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities — 776,000,000”

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.

Ministry of Irrigation

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 32 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 75,750,000,000”

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 198

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 585,000,000 for Head 198, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 248,000,000 for Head 198, 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 17 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 4,091,000,000 64,293,000,000”

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 282

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 924,000,000 for Head 282, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 26,000,000 for Head 282, 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 32 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 3,300,000,000 11,183,000,000”

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.

Ministry of Fisheries

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 26 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 3,600,000,000”

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 151

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 412,000,000 for Head 151, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 88,000,000 for Head 151, 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 4 in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 1,753,000,000 3,437,000,000”

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 290

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 785,000,000 for Head 290, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 75,000,000 for Head 290, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 7.20 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Thursday, December 08, 2022.

13. Adjournment : And it being past 7.00 p.m. Parliament was at 7.21 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 Thursday, December 08, 2022 pursuant to the Resolutions of Parliament of 19th November 2022 and this day.