



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 53.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

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

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

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

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

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

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

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

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe, State Minister of Women and Child
Affairs

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

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

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs

Hon. 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. 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. 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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
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. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
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. Ajith Mannapperuma
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. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
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. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
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. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, 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 the First Installment – Part XXIII, Fourth Installment – Part XVI and Sixth Installment – Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI and XVII 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 Report do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration for the year 2020

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Reports & Accounts of the Registrar General's Department for the years 2020 and 2021.

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

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

- (i) Regulations made by the President under Section 27 read with Sections 7(3), 8, 10, 11 and 12 of the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002 and Article 44(2) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka relating to Welfare Benefit Payments and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2302/23 of 20th October 2022;
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission under Section 71 read with Sections 27(1) and (5), 28(2) and (3), 64(2) and 70 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 relating to qualify as an Authorized Person permitted to carry on business in and from the Area of Authority of the Colombo Port City and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2299/46 of 28th September 2022; and
- (iii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission under Section 71(1) read with Sections 27(1), 41(3)(f) and 41(9) of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2299/47 of 28th September 2022

and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Business Management for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka for the year 2020.

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

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) read with subsections (2) and (3) of Section 158 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2287/28 of 07th July 2022 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security presented the Performance Report of the Department of Co-operative Development for the year 2021.

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

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment presented the Report of the said Committee on the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Geological Survey & Mines Bureau for the year 2016;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Environmental Authority for the year 2016;
- (iii) Annual Reports of the Geological Survey & Mines Bureau for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019;
- (iv) Annual Reports of the GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Limited for the years 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018;
- (v) Annual Reports of the Central Environmental Authority for the years 2019 and 2020; and
- (vi) Annual Reports of the GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd for the years 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(At 10.51 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.01 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

3. Business of the Parliament : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 and 2 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.

4. Sittings of the Parliament : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of 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, 05th January 2023.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into incidents of infringement of privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament and to make suitable recommendations in that regard : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Education moved,— Whereas the President, the Prime Minister and the Members of Parliament agreed on 23rd November 2022 on the floor of the House, to meet representatives of all parties and discuss the measures to solve the ethnic problems so that the people of the country can live as children of one mother and it is to be investigated whether the privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament have been infringed by the comments made in the programmes telecast by the Siyatha television channel on the 24th, 25th and 27th of November 2022 in relation to that;

And whereas if the privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament have been infringed, it should be investigated into and suitable recommendations in that regard should be made;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to investigate into the infringement of privileges of the Members Parliament and of the Parliament and to make suitable recommendations in that regard.

2. (a) that the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
 - (b) that in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall consists of seven (07) Members.
3. That the Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
 - (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
 - (d) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.
4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of one month (01) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Select Committee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Education moved,— Whereas a large number of students who excel at the G.C.E (Advanced Level) examination fail to secure higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka;

And whereas higher education opportunities should be expanded;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to make the necessary recommendations for the expansion of the higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka.

2. (a) that the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
 - (b) that in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall consists of eleven (11) Members.

3. That the Committee shall have the power to—

- (a) fix its quorum;
- (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
- (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
- (d) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.

4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of two months (02) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—
That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 2.57 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 05, 2022, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.