



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 57.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, January 19, 2023 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

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. Jeevan Thondaman, Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure
Development

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and
Aviation

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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

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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

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

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, Minister of Wildlife
and Forest Resources Conservation

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

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

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

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. 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 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. 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. 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. 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. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara

Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
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. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Deputy Speaker presented the—

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XXIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part XLIV, Third Installment – Part XVIII and Ninth Installment – Parts XXXV and XXXVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018;
- (iii) Second Installment – Parts XLII and XLIII and Third Installment – Parts XVI and XVII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;
- (iv) Second Installment – Parts XXXIX, XL and XLI, Third Installment – Part XIX and Ninth Installment – Parts XXIX, XXX, XXXI, XXXII and XXXIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020; and
- (v) Second Installment – Parts XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI and XXVII, Third Installment – Parts XI, XII and XIII and Ninth Installment – Parts XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX and XX 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 Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 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.

3. Regulation of Election Expenditure Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.25 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.59 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.07 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

(At 4.45 p.m. the Hon. Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 5 in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“2. The provisions of this Act shall apply to every election”;

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

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

Clause 3

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 14 to 22 (both inclusive) in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“3. (1) Within a period of five days after the conclusion of the period of nomination specified in the Proclamation or Order requiring the conduct of an election under any law specified in section 2, the Election Commission shall, in consultation with the recognized political parties, and the independent groups contesting such election, fix by Order published in the *Gazette*, a sum of money in Sri Lankan rupees to be used for the purpose of calculating an authorized amount, in accordance with the provisions of this section, for such election:

Provided however, in the case of a presidential election, every candidate who has not been nominated by a political party shall be consulted.

(2) Such sum of money to be fixed under subsection (1) shall be calculated taking into consideration the prevailing inflation rate and the National Consumer Price Index of Sri Lanka.

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 1 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“(3) The authorized amount in relation to a candidate”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 3 to 10 (both inclusive) in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“(a) in the case of an election conducted under the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262), the amount in Sri Lankan rupees resulting from the multiplication the total number of registered voters in the ward of the local authority contested by the candidate, by such amount of Sri Lankan rupees as may be fixed for that election by the Election Commission under subsection (1);”;

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

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 11 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“(b) in the case of an election conducted under the”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 17 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“may be fixed for that election by the Election”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 23 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“in the electoral district contested by the”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 27 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“(d) in the case of an election conducted under the”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 34 in page 2:—

“(4) The authorized amount in relation to recognized political parties and independent groups shall be calculated by taking into consideration the sum of money referred to in subsection (1), the total number of registered voters in the local authority area or the administrative district or the electoral district or the electoral districts in the island as the case may be, contested by each recognized political party or independent group at an election conducted under any law specified in section 2 and the number of candidates nominated by such recognized political party or independent group to contest such election.”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 2 and 3 in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“the provisions of subsections (3) and (4), shall be published in the *Gazette* on the same day, on which the Order under subsection (1) is published in the *Gazette*.”

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 3 in page 3:—

“(6) The consultation process referred to in subsection (1) may be conducted by the Election Commission through the relevant returning officers.”;

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

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

Clause 4

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 4 to 6 (both inclusive) in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“4. (1) A recognized political party, an independent group and a candidate at an election conducted under any law specified in

section 2, shall not incur expenditure in excess of the authorized amounts referred to in subsections (3) and (4) of section 3 as the case may be in respect of such election.”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 8 in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“authorized amount referred to in subsection (3) of section 3 in respect of such election, such candidate”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out the marginal note of Clause 4 in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“Restriction on election expenditure by a recognized political party, an independent group and a candidate”;

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

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

Clause 5

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 16 and 17 in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“5. (1) A recognized political party, an independent group and a candidate at an election conducted under any law specified in section 2, shall not, directly or indirectly accept or receive a”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 20 in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“(a) a government department, a public corporation or”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 2 and 3 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of such recognized political party, independent group or candidate at such election.”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 7 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“which such election was conducted and shall be liable to”;

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

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

Clause 6

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 10 to 20 (both inclusive) in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“6. (1) Every recognized political party, independent group and candidate at an election conducted under any law specified in section 2 shall within twenty-one days of the date of publication of the result of such election, submit to the respective authority specified in subsection (3)-

- (a) a return of all donations or contributions accepted or received by such recognized political party, independent group or candidate on behalf of such recognized political party, independent group or candidate; and
- (b) a return of all expenses incurred by such recognized political party, independent group or candidate on behalf of such recognized political party, independent group or candidate,

for promoting or procuring the election of such recognized political party, independent group or candidate.”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 22 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“ “of the results of such election” means, the date of publication”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 25 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“Ordinance (Chapter 262) in the case of an election”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 29 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“election conducted under that Act;”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 5 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“Act, No. 15 of 1981 in the case of an election”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 8 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“submitted by the recognized political party, independent group and candidate-”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 11 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“Commission, in the case of an election conducted”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 16 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“Commission, in the case of an election conducted”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 24 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“election conducted under the Presidential Elections”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 30 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“recognized political party, independent group or candidate, and if the donation or contribution is in”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 10 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“recognized political party, independent group or candidate,
whether paid or unpaid for-”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 14 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“to such election;”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 16 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“of advertisements relating to such election;”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 18 and 19 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“journals, social media, digital hoardings or any other digital
media, or other publications of advertisements relating to such
election;”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 21 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“the holding of meetings relating to such election;”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 23 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“election other than expenditure for the hiring of”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 2 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“behalf of the recognized political party, independent group or candidate for -”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 4 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“which the election is being held; and”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 9 to 13 (both inclusive) in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“(6) The returns referred to in subsection (1) shall be signed by the secretary of the recognized political party, group leader of the independent group or the candidate as the case may be and accompanied by a declaration signed by such secretary, group leader or candidate and attested by a Justice of the Peace, to the effect that the information in such returns is to the best of the knowledge of such secretary, group leader or candidate, true and correct.”;

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

The Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out lines 18 and 19 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“journals, social media, digital hoardings or any other digital media of advertisements relating to such election;”

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

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

Clause 7

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 15 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“under section 6 -”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 17 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“election conducted under the Local Authorities”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 21 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“(b) the Election Commission, in the case of an election”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 24 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“shall cause a notice to be published in at least one national newspaper”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 28 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“by the recognized political party, independent group or candidate named in the notice and indicating the”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 30 in page 7:—

“(2) The notice referred to in subsection (1), shall be published within ten days after the expiry of the time period specified in subsection (1) of section 6.”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 3 in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“made by a recognized political party, an independent group or a candidate at the place and time mentioned in the”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 8 to 12 (both inclusive) in page 8.

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

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

Clause 8

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 13 in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“8. Every candidate, at an election conducted under any”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 23 in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“the law specified in section 2 under which such election was”;

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

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

Clause 9

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 26 in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“ “administrative district” means the administrative district established under the Administrative Districts Act (Chapter 392);”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 28 to 31 (both inclusive) in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“behalf of a recognized political party, an independent group or a candidate” means, such donation or contribution which is accepted or received directly or indirectly with the express or implied consent of the recognized political party, the independent group or candidate;”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 31 in page 8:—

“ “election” means an election conducted under —

- (a) the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262);
- (b) the Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988;
- (c) the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981; and
- (d) the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981;”;

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

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

Clause 10 was agreed to.

New Clause

The Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law proposed another amendment to insert the following as Clause 10 immediately after line 6 in page 9:—

“The provisions of this Act shall not apply to the elections proclaimed before the enactment of this Act.”;

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

The Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law proposed another amendment to renumber Clause 10 as Clause 11.

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

Enacting Clause

Question that the Enacting Clause stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Long Title

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to substitute for the words “INCURRED BY CANDIDATES AT EVERY ELECTION”, of the words “INCURRED BY RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTIES, INDEPENDENT GROUPS AND CANDIDATES AT EVERY ELECTION”.

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

Question that the Long Title as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Title

Question that the Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows : Ayes: 97; Noes: 36.

The following Hundred and thirty three (133) Hon. Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 001. Douglas Devananda	Yes
G 002. Nimal Siripala De Silva	Yes
G 003. Chamal Rajapaksa	Yes
G 004. Mahinda Rajapaksa	Yes
G 005. Prasanna Ranatunga	Yes

G 006. Susil Premajyantha	Yes
G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	Yes
G 009. Bandula Gunawardana	Yes
G 010. Keheliya Rambukwella	Yes
G 012. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	Yes
G 014. Ramesh Pathirana	Yes
G 016. Vidura Wickramanayaka	Yes
G 017. Kanchana Wijesekera	Yes
G 018. Naseer Ahamed	Yes
G 020. Tiran Alles	Yes
G 021. Ajith Rajapakse	Yes
G 024. Jagath Pushpakumara	Yes
G 025. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya	Yes
G 026. Dilum Amunugama	Yes
G 027. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva	Yes
G 028. Janaka Wakkumbura	Yes
G 029. Shehan Semasinghe	Yes
G 030. Kanaka Herath	Yes
G 031. Thenuka Vidanagamage	Yes
G 032. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon	Yes
G 033. Lasantha Alagiyawanna	Yes
G 034. Rohana Dissanayaka	Yes
G 036. Arundika Fernando	Yes
G 037. Vijitha Berugoda	Yes
G 038. Lohan Ratwaththe	Yes
G 039. Sanath Nishantha	Yes
G 040. Tharaka Balasuriya	Yes
G 041. Indika Anuruddha Herath	Yes
G 042. Siripala Gamalath	Yes
G 043. Anuradha Jayaratne	Yes
G 044. S. Viyalanderan	Yes
G 045. D. V. Chanaka	Yes
G 046. Sisira Jayakody	Yes
G 047. Piyal Nishantha De Silva	Yes
G 049. D. B. Herath	Yes
G 050. Shasheendra Rajapaksa	Yes
G 052. Shantha Bandara	Yes
G 053. K. Kader Masthan	Yes
G 054. Ashoka Priyantha	Yes

G 057. Suren Raghavan	Yes
G 058. Diana Gamage	Yes
G 060. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake	Yes
G 061. Anupa Pasqual	Yes
G 062. Johnston Fernando	Yes
G 064. Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi	Yes
G 066. Vajira Abeywardena	Yes
G 067. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon	Yes
G 068. C. B. Rathnayake	Yes
G 069. S. M. Chandrasena	Yes
G 070. Mahindananda Aluthgamage	Yes
G 071. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana	Yes
G 072. Namal Rajapaksa	Yes
G 073. Sarath Weerasekera	Yes
G 076. Kapila Athukorala	Yes
G 077. Gayashan Nawananda	Yes
G 079. Jayantha Ketagoda	Yes
G 080. Sampath Athukorala	Yes
G 082. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura	Yes
G 083. Pradeep Undugoda	Yes
G 084. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	Yes
G 085. Akila Ellawala	Yes
G 086. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi	Yes
G 087. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku	Yes
G 088. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda	Yes
G 089. Udayakantha Gunathilaka	Yes
G 090. Kokila Gunawardene	Yes
G 091. Milan Jayathilake	Yes
G 092. Kulasingam Dhileeban	Yes
G 093. Sudarshana Denipitiya	Yes
G 094. Isuru Dodangoda	Yes
G 095. Premnath C. Dolawatte	Yes
G 096. H. Nandasena	Yes
G 097. Muditha Prishanthi	Yes
G 098. Sudath Manjula	Yes
G 099. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal	Yes
G 101. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka	Yes
G 102. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha	Yes
G 103. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha	Yes

G 104. Rajika Wickramasinghe	Yes
G 105. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana	Yes
G 106. Madhura Withanage	Yes
G 108. Samanpriya Herath	Yes
G 109. Sagara Kariyawasam	Yes
G 110. Yadamini Gunawardena	Yes
G 111. Manjula Dissanayake	Yes
G 112. Ranjith Bandara	Yes
G 114. Marjan Faleel	Yes
G 115. Lalith Varna Kumara	Yes
G 116. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	Yes
O 001. Rishad Bathiudeen	No
O 006. Gayantha Karunatileka	No
O 007. Lakshman Kiriella	No
O 008. Sajith Premadasa	No
O 010. Patali Champika Ranawaka	No
O 015. G.L. Peiris	No
O 016. Anura Dissanayaka	No
O 017. A. L. M. Athaullah	Yes
O 022. Thalatha Athukorala	No
O 024. Sarath Fonseka	No
O 025. Harsha De Silva	No
O 027. Dilip Wedaarachchi	No
O 029. Niroshan Perera	No
O 030. Eran Wickramaratne	No
O 031. J. C. Alawathuwala	No
O 033. John Seneviratne	Yes
O 036. Dullas Alahapperuma	No
O 037. Vijitha Herath	No
O 043. Ashok Abeysinghe	No
O 045. Ajith Mannapperuma	No
O 049. Hector Appuhamy	No
O 052. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana	No
O 057. Harini Amarasuriya	No
O 062. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera	No
O 063. S. M. Marikkar	No
O 064. Imran Maharoof	No
O 065. Ishak Rahuman	No
O 066. Mujibur Rahuman	No

O 067. Harshana Rajakaruna	No
O 068. Rohini Kumari Wijerathna	No
O 069. Chaminda Wijesiri	No
O 070. Waruna Liyanage	No
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	No
O 081. W. H. M. Dharmasena	No
O 082. Kins Nelson	No
O 083. Rohana Bandara	No
O 089. Nimal Lanza	Yes
O 092. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara	No
O 108. Weerasumana Weerasinghe	No

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

4. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2315/07 of 17th January 2023 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, which was presented on 18.01.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate the Country's Economic Setback from November 2019 to date and Report to Parliament and Submit its Proposals and Recommendations in this regard : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,— Whereas, due to the fact that the economy of this country has by now plunged into an unprecedented severe economic crisis, it is the responsibility of the Parliament, which is vested with full control over Public Finance as per Article 148 of the Constitution, to investigate the persons who should be held responsible for it;

And whereas it is the responsibility of the Parliament to investigate whether this economic crime was committed with a plan by Monetary Board failing to provide to the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance analytical reports with forecasts on economic indices such as the cost of living, inflation, money supply and the international balance of payment which should have been provided to him as required by sections 64(2), 65, and 68(1) of the Monetary Law Act No. 58 of 1949 or by the Cabinet of Ministers or Officers neglecting their duties;

And whereas the country's economic deterioration was caused due to factors such as providing tax relief, non-payment of loan installments, imposition of import restrictions, allowing for a rapid depreciation of the rupee, the decline in official remittances from migrants, the increase in inflation to a high inflation level and the increase in the cost of living; and

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to investigate and report to Parliament, and submit its proposals and recommendations on the following matters:—

- (a) the fact whether the country experienced an unprecedented economic crisis as a result of those in the positions of responsibility during the times of concern failing to perform their duties properly;
 - (b) the fact whether the relevant authorities took adequate measures to prevent and/or minimize the effect of the economic crisis;
 - (c) the fact whether there were shortcomings in the state machinery that caused it to fail to prevent and/or minimize the effect of the economic crisis;
 - (d) the fact whether there were other factors that contributed to such economic crisis;
 - (e) the fact whether there are other factors which may cause the country to undergo such economic crisis in future; and
 - (f) the course of action that should be taken to minimize such economic deterioration in future.
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 not consist of more than twelve (12) 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 three months (03) 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 look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short term, medium term and long term measures to be taken in that regard, as well as to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures : Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,— Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has informed for the second time, that child malnutrition in Sri Lanka is aggravating;

And whereas there are different opinions and statistics regarding the actual situation of child malnutrition in Sri Lanka;

And whereas the number of acute malnourished children is reported in many areas;

And whereas long-term malnutrition can cause serious consequences as far as the health, education and social development of future generation is concerned;

And whereas there are reports to the effect that 22 lakhs of additional number of children are likely to become malnourished in near future;

And whereas serious attention should be paid to the information contained in the report of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short-term, medium-term and long-term measures to be taken in that regard and to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures.

2. (a) that the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
 - (b) that notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall consist of not more than twenty one (21) 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 six months (06) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment (Recruitment of Graduates as Teachers through a Competitive Exam) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Education moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.44 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.10 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023.