



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 23.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

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

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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

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

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

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

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries

Hon. Piya 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. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. 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. 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. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Lalith 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. Gevindu Cumaratunga
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. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera 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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
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. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law

Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

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

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcement by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following Announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received another 4 (four) copies of the petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Anti-corruption’, in addition to the receipt of a Petition mentioned in the announcement made by me on 09th May 2023.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Czech Republic for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of Tax Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, entered in to on 03rd February 2023 and moved that the Agreement be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the Skills Development Fund Limited for the years 2018 and 2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Civil Procedure Code (Amendment): The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— “Bill to amend the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, May 25, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society.

4. Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties that have arisen in relation to enhancing the rank in the Ease of Doing Business Index in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties that have arisen in relation to enhancing the rank in the Ease of Doing Business Index in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 04th October 2022 be extended up to 22nd November 2023 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed

5. Rathanatissa Peace Foundation (Incorporation) Bill : Order for consideration read.

Bill, as amended in the Legislative Standing Committee Considered.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the amendments made by the Legislative Standing Committee be agreed to.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the Bill as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

6. Adjournment (Compensation for “X-Press Pearl” Ship Disaster) : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (10th May 2023)

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.41 a.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.02 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law, seconded by Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.45 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

Question put and, agreed to; Parliament was at 5.33 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, May 12, 2023.