



*(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)*

No. 22.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

### PRESENT :

**Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana**, Speaker

**Hon. Angajan Ramanathan**, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

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**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. 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. (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. (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. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC**, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**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. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage**, State Minister of Tourism  
**Hon. Sivaneshurai Santhirakanthan**, State Minister of Rural Road Development  
**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. 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. 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. 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. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Power and Energy  
**Hon. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock Development

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**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. Thisakutti Arachchi**

**Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda**  
**Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna**  
**Hon. Akila Ellawala**  
**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. Udayana Kirindigoda**  
**Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara**  
**Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga**  
**Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri**  
**Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku**  
**Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda**  
**Hon. Udaya Gammanpila**  
**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. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana**  
**Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara**  
**Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban**  
**Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon**  
**Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva**  
**Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**  
**Hon. S. B. Dissanayake**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake**  
**Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya**

**Hon. Isuru Dodangoda**  
**Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara**  
**Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan**  
**Hon. Kins Nelson**  
**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. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi**  
**Hon. Uddika Premarathne**  
**Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara**  
**Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen**  
**Hon. Sudath Manjula**  
**Hon. S. M. Marikkar**  
**Hon. Imran Maharoof**  
**Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar**  
**Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Mohomad Muzammil**  
**Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka**  
**Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara**  
**Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem**  
**Hon. Ishak Rahuman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha**  
**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. Nimal Lanza**  
**Hon. Gamini Lokuge**

**Hon. Gamini Waleboda**  
**Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe**  
**Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran**  
**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. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana**  
**Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. D. Weerasingha**  
**Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera**  
**Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan**  
**Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama**  
**Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera**  
**Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan**  
**Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena**  
**Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran**  
**Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi**  
**Hon. Vadivel Suresh**  
**Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne**  
**Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. H. M. M. Harees**  
**Hon. Abdul Haleem**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath**  
**Hon. Vijitha 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 that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled ‘Inland Revenue (Amendment)’ on 08 May 2023.”

**2. Presentation of Papers :** Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 and Section 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of Departments of the Faculty of Nursing of the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2319/22 of 13th February 2023.

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

**3. Presentation of Public Petitions :**

- (1) Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 20.02.2023 from Mr. L. D. J. R. Nanayakkara of No 399/15, Isuru Uyana, Kurunduwatta.
- (2) Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake presented a petition dated 20.03.2023 from Mrs. H. P. S. Gunawardana of No. 3/26, Race Course Mawatha, Badulla.
- (3) Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva presented a petition dated 20.03.2023 from Mr. Waduthanthri Punyasiri of Kondagala, Batapola.

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

**4. Sitzings of the Parliament :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of 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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023, the hours of sittings of Parliament on 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday and 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday, May, 2023 shall be from 9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.. At 9.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed

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

Question proposed, and debated

**Suspension of Sitting**

10.20 a.m.

The sitting was suspended until 12.03 p.m.

12.03 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

With the leave of the House, the following announcement was made by the Speaker:—

“The Party Leaders discussed the Point of Order raised by the Hon. Wijedasa Rajapakse, Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Affairs in the chamber today and I wish to inform the House of the agreement reached over that.

The Opposition requested for an adjournment debate on the disaster caused by the shipwreck of the X-Press Pearl ship and upon discussions about it, it was decided to take up the debate today as per the decision of the Committee on Parliamentary Business that met on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. As per the decision of the Committee on Parliamentary Business that met again yesterday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, it was decided to conduct the debate on two days covering today and tomorrow. At the time that decision was being taken, the risk of discussing the law suits pending before the court was raised and the Party Leaders decided not to discuss any matters that would pose such risk during this debate. The Hon. Wijedasa Rajapakse, Minister of Justice pointed out in the House today that debating this matter today will be prejudicial to the cases that are pending before the court over the X-Press Pearl ship.

This was widely discussed at the Committee on Parliamentary Business convened by me a little while ago and the following decisions were reached at that:-

1. That it should not be allowed to raise any matter detrimental to the trial regarding the X-Press Pearl incident in the House; and
2. The debate should be conducted giving priority to policy matters with regard to protecting the environment.

As per the agreement reached at the Committee on Parliamentary Business I now give the opportunity to the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to make a brief explanation on the matters that can be detrimental to the trial. Since the claiming of compensation for the X-Press Pearl disaster is a matter of national importance. I reiterate that it is the duty of all to act with responsibility in the Parliament without hampering the process.”

(At 2.04 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.19 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath 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 4.50 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being past 6.00 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

And it being past 6.00 p.m. Parliament was at 8.08 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put Pursuant to the Resolution of this day.

Parliament adjourned Accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023.