



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 2.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 09, 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. 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. 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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
Affairs

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

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

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. 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. 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. (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. 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. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
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. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza

Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
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. John Seneviratne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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

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

1. Official Oath or Affirmation by new Members : Hon. Abdul Hameed Mohamed Fowzie, Member of Parliament for Colombo Electoral District, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Book at the **Table**.

2. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/4/5/1

January 20, 2023

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,


Ranil Wickremesinghe
President

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

3. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received the Determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators (Amendment)’ which was challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that the Bill as a whole is inconsistent with Articles 12(1) and 148 of the Constitution and as such may be enacted only by the special majority required by Article 84(2) of the Constitution.

I order that the Determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings of the House.”

II

“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 certificates on the Bills entitled ‘Bureau of Rehabilitation’ and ‘Regulation of Election Expenditure’ on 24th January 2023.”

4. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/77 of 01st January 2023; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/78 of 01st January 2023

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Select Committee of Parliament to consider the government business presented to Parliament by the public institutions that do not come under the purview of the existing Ministries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Employees' Trust Fund Board for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Cabinet Sub – Committee Report published in December 2022 on National Energy Potentials, Strategies and the Roadmap for Next Decade;
- (ii) Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.12.2022 to 31.12.2022 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021;
- (iii) Report of the Commissioner of Elections on the Fifteenth Parliamentary General Election of Sri Lanka held on 17th August 2015; and
- (iv) Report of the Presidential Election held on 16.11.2019 to elect the President.

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

(7) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Reports of the National Research Council for the years 2019 and 2020

and moved that those Reports be referred to Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Reports of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Marine Environment Protection Authority for the year 2020; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Selendiva Investments Limited for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd for the year 2020/2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Selacine Television Institute for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council for the year 2020; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Independent Television Network Ltd for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the State Development & Construction Corporation for the year 2021; and

- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 read with Sections 44, 123, 124, 125, 126, 126B, 128, 132, 132A and 231 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2301/17 of 10th October 2022

and moved that the Report and those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Reports of the Homoeopathic Medical Council for the years 2019 and 2020;
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol for the year 2020; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(14) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(15) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

Question put, and agreed to.

(16) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Botanic Gardens for the year 2021.

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

(17) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(18) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Rubber Development Department for the year 2020.

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

(19) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

(20) The Minister of Power and Energy presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development for the year 2021.

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

(21) The Minister of Environment presented the Annual Report of the Geological Survey & Mines Bureau for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Chair of the Sub - Committee of the National Council of the Ninth Parliament in identifying short and medium term programmes related Economic Stabilization presented the Second Report of the said Sub - Committee which was presented to the National Council.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

6. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.. At 10.00 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 to 67 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.

8. Committee of Selection (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 114 of the Parliament, the Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and twelve (12) Members which shall include the Leaders of Political Parties or their nominees to be nominated by Parliament to serve during the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Committee of Selection (No.2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament this day, the undermentioned Members do serve in the Committee of Selection during the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament:—

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law

Hon. Douglas Devananda

Hon. Johnston Fernando

Hon. Gamini Lokuge

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Welfare Benefits 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 the 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, which were presented on 13.12.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (2017) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 23.10.2019 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 10.11.2022 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 19.07.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Annual Report of the National Institute of Language Education and Training (2017) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Institute of Language Education and Training for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 05.04.2022 under Section 23 of General Provisions of the Part IV of the National Institute of Language Education and Training Act, No. 26 of 2007, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 10.02.2022 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 29.08.2022 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

17. Annual Report of the Official Language Commission (2017) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Official Language Commission for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 06.04.2021 under Section 32 of Part IV of the Official Languages Commission Act, No. 18 of 1991, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

18. Annual Report of the Official Language Commission (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Official Language Commission for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 31.08.2022 under Section 32 of Part IV of the Official Languages Commission Act, No. 18 of 1991, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

19. Annual Report of the Official Language Commission (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Official Language Commission for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 08.03.2022 under Section 32 of Part IV of the Official Languages Commission Act, No.18 of 1991, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

20. Annual Report of the Distance Learning Center (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Distance Learning Center for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 31.08.2022 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

21. Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund (2014) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the year 2014 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2014 and presented on 22.08.2019 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

22. Annual Reports and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund (2015 and 2016) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Reports and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the years 2015 and 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the years ended 31.12.2015 and 31.12.2016 and presented on 07.11.2019 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

23. Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund (2017) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 20.04.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

24. Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 08.11.2021 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

25. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (2016) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance for the year 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 10.07.2019 under Sections 17 and 18 of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance Act, No. 31 of 1999, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

26. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 17.11.2021 under Sections 17 and 18 of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance Act, No. 31 of 1999, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

27. Annual Report of the Institute of Indigenous Medicine of the University of Colombo (2020) : The Minister of Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the Institute of Indigenous Medicine of the University of Colombo for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 29.08.2022 under Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

28. Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya (2020) : The Minister of Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 29.08.2022 under Section 110 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

29. Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (2019) : The Minister of Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 09.12.2021 under Section 108(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

30. Annual Report & Accounts of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (2019) : The Minister of Education moved,— That the Annual Report & Accounts of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 10.12.2021 under Sections 110 & 111, Part XIII, of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

31. Annual Report of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences of the University of Colombo (2020) : The Minister of Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences of the University of Colombo for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 04.10.2022 under Section 110 of Chapter XIII of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

32. Annual Report & Annual Accounts of the Institute of Technology of the University of Moratuwa (2020) : The Minister of Education moved,— That the Annual Report & Annual Accounts of the Institute of Technology of the University of Moratuwa for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 04.07.2022 under Section 24A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of the 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

33. Annual Report & Statement of Accounts of the University of Moratuwa (2020) : The Minister of Education moved,— That the Annual Report & Statement of Accounts of the University of Moratuwa for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 09.09.2022 under Section 106(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of the 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

34. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 23.06.2021 under Section 33 of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act, No. 51 of 1979, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

35. Annual Report of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd (2017/2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd for the year 2017/2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.03.2018 and presented on 03.08.2021 under Section 153 of the Companies Act, No.07 of 2007, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

36. Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (2013) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation for the year 2013 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2013 and presented on 21.06.2017 under Section 30(1) of the State Industrial Corporations Act No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

37. Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (2014) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation for the year 2014 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2014 and presented on 23.10.2019 under Section 30(1) of the State Industrial Corporations Act No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

38. Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (2015) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation for the year 2015 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2015 and presented on 23.10.2019 under Section 30(1) of the State Industrial Corporations Act No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

39. Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (2016) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation for the year 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 23.10.2019 under Section 30(1) of the State Industrial Corporations Act No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

40. Annual Report of the Cey-Nor Foundation Limited (2016) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Cey-Nor Foundation Limited for the year 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 21.01.2022 under Section 131 of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

41. Annual Report & Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report & Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 10.02.2022 under Section 32 of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency Act, No. 54 of 1981, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

42. Annual Report & Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (2020) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report & Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 20.09.2022 under Section 32 of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency Act, No. 54 of 1981, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

43. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 21.01.2022 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

44. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 22.02.2022 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

45. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute (2017) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 09.08.2022 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

46. Annual Report of the National Authority for Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses (2020) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Authority for Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 29.08.2022 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

47. Annual Report of the National Design Centre (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Design Centre for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 10.02.2022 under Section 84 of the National Crafts Council and Allied Institutions Act, No. 35 of 1982, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

48. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 20.01.2022 under Section 16 of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile & Apparel Act No. 12 of 2009, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

49. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation (2017) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 06.04.2021 under Section 12(5) of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation Act No. 1 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

50. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 04.05.2022 under Section 12(5) of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation Act No. 1 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

51. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 04.07.2022 under Section 12(5) of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation Act No. 1 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

52. Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund (2012) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund for the year 2012 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2012 and presented on 23.10.2019 under Section 9(4) of the Central Cultural Fund Act, No. 57 of 1980, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

53. Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund (2013) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund for the year 2013 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2013 and presented on 23.10.2019 under Section 9(4) of the Central Cultural Fund Act, No. 57 of 1980, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

54. Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund (2014) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund for the year 2014 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2014 and presented on 23.10.2019 under Section 9(4) of the Central Cultural Fund Act, No. 57 of 1980, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

55. Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund (2015) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund for the year 2015 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2015 and presented on 23.10.2019 under Section 9(4) of the Central Cultural Fund Act, No. 57 of 1980, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

56. Annual Report of the Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd. (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd. for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 09.09.2022 under Section 166 of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

57. Annual Report of the Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd. (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd. for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 09.09.2022 under Section 166 of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

58. Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (2018) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 22.10.2021 under Section 30 of the State Industrial Corporations Act, No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

59. Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (2015) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2015 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2015 and presented on 20.02.2019 under Section 30 of the State Industrial Corporations Act, No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

60. Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (2013) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2013 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2013 and presented on 28.07.2017 under Section 30 of the State Industrial Corporations Act, No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

61. Annual Report of the National Youth Services Council (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Youth Services Council for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 07.10.2022 under the National Youth Services Act, No. 69 of 1979, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

62. Adjournment (Policy Statement Made by the Honourable President at the Inauguration of the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 10.06 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana seconded by Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda moved,— That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.57 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Irrigation moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.06 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara seconded by Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran moved,— That Hon. Nimal Piyathissa do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.00 p.m. Hon. Nimal Piyathissa took the Chair.).

Debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Friday, February 10, 2023.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.34 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, February 10, 2023.