



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 3.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, February 10, 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. 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. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries

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

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands

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 Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Health

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

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

Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy

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

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries

Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Fisheries

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. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
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. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
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. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
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. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

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

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have nominated the following Members of Parliament to serve in the Panel of Chairs for the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament from 10.02.2023, in terms of Standing Order 143 of the Parliament:—

Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and the Registrar-General of Companies under Section 71 read with Section 41(7) of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2306/54 of 17th November 2022 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 Annual Report of the National Institute of Business Management for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Food Science and Technology of the Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2305/16 of 09th November 2022; and
- (ii) 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 a Department of Communication and Creative Arts of the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/06 of 12th December 2022

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

(4) The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Coconut Research Institute for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament :

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament on the Bill entitled “Rathanatissa Peace Foundation (Incorporation)” of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

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, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.. At 9.30 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.

5. Ministerial Consultative Committees : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— Twenty Nine (29) Ministerial Consultative Committees be appointed to be designated as follows:—

1. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence
2. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
3. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology
4. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment
5. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation
6. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Investment Promotion
7. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government
8. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries
9. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education
10. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways
11. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media
12. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health
13. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture
14. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation
15. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms
16. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism and Lands
17. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries

18. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries
19. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing
20. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs
21. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
22. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy
23. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment
24. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs
25. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation
26. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour and Foreign Employment
27. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security
28. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security
29. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development

Each Ministerial Consultative Committee shall consist of the Cabinet Minister in charge of the relevant subject as the Chair, State Minister, Deputy Minister and Five (5) other Members of Parliament to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to discuss and report upon such matters as are referred to the Committee in terms of Standing Order 112 of the Parliament;

The quorum of each Ministerial Consultative Committee shall be three (3) Members.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Legislative Standing Committee : 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 113 of the Parliament, the Legislative Standing Committee shall consist of the Deputy Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees and fifteen (15) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Committee on Parliamentary Business : 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 115 of the Parliament, the Committee on Parliamentary Business shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip and twenty six (26) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Committee on Standing Orders : 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 116 of the Parliament, the Committee on Standing Orders shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees and nine (9) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. House Committee : 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 117 of the Parliament, the House Committee shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and fourteen (14) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Committee on Ethics and Privileges : 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 118 of the Parliament, the Committee on Ethics and Privileges shall consist of sixteen (16) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Committee on Public Accounts : 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 119 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Accounts shall consist of thirty one (31) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Committee on Public Enterprises : 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 120 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Enterprises shall consist of thirty one (31) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Committee on Public Finance : 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 121 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Finance shall consist of twenty eight (28) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Committee on Banking and Financial Services : 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 122 of the Parliament, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services shall consist of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Committee on Economic Stabilization : 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 123 of the Parliament, the Committee on Economic Stabilization shall consist of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Committee on Ways and Means : 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 124 of the Parliament, the Committee on Ways and Means shall consist of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

17. Committee on Public Petitions : 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 125 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Petitions shall consist of twenty three (23) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

18. Backbencher Committee : 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 129 of the Parliament, the Backbencher Committee shall consist of the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip, eight (8) Backbenchers from the Government and eight (8) Backbenchers from the Opposition to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

With the leave of the House, the following announcements were made by the Speaker:—

I

Committee on Parliamentary Business

“I wish to inform that, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 115 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament this day, the following Members have been nominated with the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip and the Chief Opposition Whip, by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Parliamentary Business :—

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera
Hon. Naseer Ahamed
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law”

II

Committee on Public Finance

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Finance, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 121 of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on this day:—

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Anupa Pasqual

Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara”

19. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena seconded by Hon. Nimal Lanza moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the International Institute of Theravadha.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs for report.

20. Adjournment (Policy Statement Made by the Honourable President at the Inauguration of the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament) : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (09th February 2023).

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

(At 10.42 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.43 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena seconded by Hon. Anupa Pasqual moved,— That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.39 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.57 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.