



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 7.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, February 24, 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. 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. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law, Minister of Education and Leader
of the House of Parliament

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

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

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

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. 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. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
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. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath

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

I

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2), I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for consideration of the Bill entitled ‘Local Authorities Elections (Amendment)’:—

Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
 Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
 Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran”

II

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2), I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for consideration of the Bill entitled ‘Local Authorities Elections (Amendment)’:—

Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
 Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
 Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the First Installment – Part XXVIII, Fourth Installment – Parts XXI and XXII and Fifth Installment – Parts V, VI, VII and VIII 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 Report do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) 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 Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and
- (ii) 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 Election Commission in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Account.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Amendments to the General Policy Guidelines for the Electricity Industry—2022.

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

(4) The Minister of Education 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 Parliament of Sri Lanka 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 Account.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education 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 Transport and Highways 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 Account.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital & Postgraduate Medical Training Center for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Gem and Jewellery Authority for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Education 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 Foreign Affairs 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 Account.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Education 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 Labour and Foreign Employment, Department of Labour and Department of Manpower & Employment 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 Account.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Chair of the Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate into Incidents of Infringement of Privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament and to make Suitable Recommendations presented the Report of the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Kanaka Herath on behalf of the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology presented the Report of the said Committee on the Annual Reports of the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Shantha Bandara presented a petition dated 24.08.2022 from Ms. L.P. Ashoka Liyanapathi of Bowala, Nawathal Watta.
- (2) Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe presented a petition dated 16.09.2022 from Mr. D. M. M. B. Dissanayake of No. 88, Nandana Mawatha, Negombo Road, Kurunegala.
- (3) Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha presented a petition dated 02.01.2023 from Mr. J. H. Gamini Wijewardena of Thalpathwewa, Polpithigama.

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

5. Sittings of the Parliament : 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 21st February 2023, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Votes of Condolence : The Minister of Education moved the Votes of Condolence on the late Hon. Rohan Abeygunasekera, late Hon. Abdul Bais Kamardeen, late Hon. Athauda Seneviratne and late Hon. Tissa R. Balalle, ex-Members of Parliament.

The Minister of Education moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.03 a.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.12 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera seconded by Hon. Shantha Bandara moved,— That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.59 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

The Presiding Member announced that the Speaker and himself associated together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of the late Hon. Rohan Abeygunasekera, late Hon. Abdul Bais Kamardeen, late Hon. Athauda Seneviratne and late Hon. Tissa R. Balalle, ex-Members of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send copies of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of their bereaved families.

7. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.22 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 07, 2023.