



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 8.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, March 07, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture

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. 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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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. Roshan Ranasinghe, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of Irrigation

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation

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. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

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

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. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs

Hon. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply

Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. 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. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries

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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. 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. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren

Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law

Hon. Faizal Cassim

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law

Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda

Hon. Mano Ganesan

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. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera 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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara

Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
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. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
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. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
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. 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 ‘Institution of Building Services Engineering & Technology of Sri Lanka (Incorporation)’:—

Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Arundika Fernando
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. B.Y.G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kotegoda
Hon. Uddika Premarathne”

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 ‘Rathanathissa Peace Foundation (Incorporation)’:—

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. D. Weerasingha”

III

“I wish to declare Parliament that, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 132(1)(b) of the Parliament, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance, the Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake, Member of Parliament has given the written notice of his resignation from the Chairmanship. I wish to inform that a meeting of the Committee of Selection will be held on 04th April 2023 to nominate a Chair for the vacant Chairmanship of the Committee.”

IV

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 119 of the Parliament, the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Accounts, as per the resolution adopted by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake”

V

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Economic Stabilization, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 123 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. Dhammika Perera
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Regulations made by the President under Section 24 read with Section 8(2) of the Electronic Transactions Act, No. 19 of 2006 and Article 44(3) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2308/08 of 29th November 2022; and

- (ii) 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(3) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/30 of 15th December 2022 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Reports 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 District Secretariats – Jaffna, Trincomalee, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, Kalutara, Kilinochchi, Ratnapura, Ampara, Hambantota, Monaragala, Matale and Kurunegala in the reports of the Committee on Public Accounts which were 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 Judges of the Superior Court – Head 04 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 Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2321/07 of 27th February 2023 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979.

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

(4) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A read with Section 27(1)(b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Management Honours in Business Analytics Degree awarded by KAATSU - Highly Advanced Medical Technology Training Centre (Pvt) Limited (KIU), the Bachelor of Science Honours in Engineering in Civil Engineering and the Bachelor of Science Honours in Engineering in Mechatronics Engineering Degrees awarded by SLT Campus (Pvt) Limited, and the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Anthropology and the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Applied Communication and Media Technology Degrees awarded by Nagananda International Institute of Buddhist Studies (Pvt) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2308/29 of 01st December 2022;

- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Science Honours in Information Technology Degree awarded by Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (Guarantee) Limited (SLIIT) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/12 of 13th December 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka for the year 2021.

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

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

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117(2)(q) read with Sections 6(3)(a) and 31 of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2303/18 of 26th October 2022; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Sections 117(2) and 117(3) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2304/46 of 02nd November 2022

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Reports of the Buddhasasana Fund for the years 2016 and 2017 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Power and Energy presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Power and Energy under Section 48 of the Petroleum Resources Act, No. 21 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2313/47 of 05th January 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

The Minister of Education presented the Report under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament on the Bill entitled “Sri Lanka Institute of Taxation (Incorporation) (Amendment)” of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, March 08, 2023.

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) 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;
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) read with Sections 8, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19A, 30, 37, 42, 139C, 139H, 195 and 231 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2306/02 of 14th November 2022;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board for the year 2019; and
- (iv) Annual Report of the State Development & Construction Corporation for the year 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Wajira Abeywardana, a member of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (ii) Notification under the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52); and
- (iii) Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented—

- (i) a petition dated 02.01.2023 from Ms. T. A. Niranjala Perera of No. 141/B, School Road, Aluviharaya, Matale;
- (ii) a petition dated 02.01.2023 from Ms. T. W. A. N. K. Dissanayake of 7th Post, Moragolla, Bambaragaswewa, Galewela; and
- (iii) a petition dated 23.12.2022 from Mrs. U. Kalyani Perera of Parakrama Watta, Kiwula, Matale.

(2) Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 01.12.2022 from Mr. T. A. W. Sarath Siriwardhana of No.182/J/1, Pahala Hanwella, Hanwella.

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

6. Central Bank of Sri Lanka : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,—“Bill to provide for the establishment of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka; for the repeal of the Monetary Law Act (Chapter 422); and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

7. 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 4.00 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Privileges : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Shantha Bandara, M.P. on 23rd February, 2023 in Parliament to the effect that privileges of Parliament and the Members of Parliament have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No.1) : The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) read with subsections (2) and (3) of Section 158 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2287/28 of 07th July 2022, which were presented on 13.12.2022, be approved.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.33 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Hon. Mano Ganesan seconded by Hon. Ishak Rahuman moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.54 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No.2) : The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the 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, which were presented on 09.02.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No.3) : The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) read with Sections 8, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19A, 30, 37, 42, 139C, 139H, 195 and 231 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2306/02 of 14th November 2022, which were presented on 21.02.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Adjournment (Regulation of Social Media) : The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.21 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 08, 2023.