



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 16.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, April 04, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson 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. 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. 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. (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. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, State Minister of Tourism
Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
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. Premalal Jayasekara, State Minister of Ports and Aviation
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Fisheries
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply
Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
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. 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. 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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
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 Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
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. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula

Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
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. 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. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
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. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

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

I

“I wish to make an announcement in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Central Bank of Sri Lanka.’

The Court has determined that none of the provisions in the Bill are inconsistent with the constitution. Accordingly the Court has determined that the Bill can be passed by a simple majority in Parliament subject to the amendments which have been mentioned in the determination. I order that the full determination of the Supreme Court be published in the official proceedings of the Parliament today.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Ballot Papers used in the secret ballot held on 20.07.2022 in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the Presidential Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 2 of 1981 to elect a Member of Parliament to the office of President in terms of the provisions of Article 40 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Standing Order 7 of the Parliament, were destroyed by the Secretary-General of Parliament following the procedure in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the said Act and with the approval of the Committee on Parliamentary Business held on 24.03.2023.”

III

“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 ‘Shaili Edutainment Foundation (Incorporation)’:—

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

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda

Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar”

IV

“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 ‘Chartered Institute of Transport of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) (Amendment)’:—

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. K. Kader Masthan

Hon. Gamini Lokuge”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the First Installment – Part XXIX, and Fifth Installment – Part IX 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 Order made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 regarding CESS levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/76 of 01st January 2023 and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the 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 01.02.2023 to 28.02.2023 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 43 of 2022 .

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

(4) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2020;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2020;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences of the University of Colombo for the year 2020;
- (v) Annual Report of the Ceylon German Technical Training Institute for the year 2020;
- (vi) Annual Report of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts for the year 2021;
- (vii) Annual Report & Accounts of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine for the year 2021;
- (viii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Business Management for the year 2021;
- (ix) Annual Report of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2021;
- (x) Annual Report & Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of English of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2021;
- (xi) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2021;
- (xii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine for the year 2021;
- (xiii) Annual Report of the University of Colombo for the year 2021;
- (xiv) Annual Report & Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of Science of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2021;

- (xv) Annual Report of the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka for the year 2021; and
- (xvi) Annual Report & Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine of the University of Colombo for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Wijaya Kumaranatunga Memorial Hospital for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2021; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol for the year 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Agriculture presented the Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation for the years 2020 and 2021

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Education presented the 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 Ministry of Plantation and the Rubber Development Department in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which were presented to Parliament and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs 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 Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural 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 Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Power and Energy 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 Energy Division of the Ministry of Power and Energy 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. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Dinesh Gunawardhana, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils & Local Government presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration for the year 2020;
- (iii) Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2021;
- (iv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the year 2020;
- (v) Annual Report of the National Institute of Language Education and Training for the year 2018; and
- (vi) Annual Report of the Distance Learning Centre for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law, a member of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka presented a petition dated 04.01.2023 from Mr. Gayana Madhubhashana Hettiarachchi of 'Siriniwasa', Padukka Road, Ingiriya.
- (2) Hon. Premalal Jayasekara presented a petition dated 19.02.2023 from Mrs. H. S. Malani of No. 523/06, Jayabima, Thirivanaketiya, Rathnapura.
- (3) Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 03.02.2023 from Mrs. D. H. Wimalawathie of No. 21/2, Meegaha watta, Peliyagoda;
 - (ii) a petition dated 28.01.2023 from Mr. D. M. Dharmasena of No. 107, Thissapura, Ampara;
 - (iii) a petition dated 08.02.2023 from Mrs. J. A. I. Rupika of Galamuna, Kudawewa;
 - (iv) a petition dated 09.02.2023 from Mr. L. G. H. R. Sumathipala of 'Sampath' Dammulla, Karadana, Rathnapura;
 - (v) a petition dated 31.01.2023 from Mrs. R. K. M. Chandralatha of Berethudwa, Dodandoova; and
 - (vi) a petition dated 27.01.2023 from Mrs. W. S. M. Silva of No 67/50, Alexandra Place, Thudella, Ja-Ela.

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

(At 11.10 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

5. Betting and Gaming Levy (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,—“Bill to amend the Betting and Gaming Levy Act, No. 40 of 1988.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

6. Select Committee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 13th December 2022 be extended up to 21st June 2023 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sittings of the Parliament (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the Parliament shall sit on Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th and Friday 28th, April 2023.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Sittings of the Parliament (No.2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 25th April, 2023.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Penal Code (Chapter 19)”

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 Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms for report.

10. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development 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 Order made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 with regard to amend the rate of CESS and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2306/15 of 14th November 2022, which was presented on 08.03.2023, be approved.

(At 11.59 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Agriculture moved,—That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.44 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Health moved,—That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.00 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.1) : 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 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. 2320/46 of 22nd February 2023, which were presented on 22.03.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.2) : 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 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. 2320/47 of 22nd February 2023, which were presented on 22.03.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.49 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.