



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 15.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, March 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. 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. (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. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Sivanethurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

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. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs

Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion

Hon. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local
Government
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. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila

Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
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. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

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 announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have appointed the following Members of Parliament under the Chair of the Hon. Vadivel Suresh to serve on the ‘Select Committee of Parliament to look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short term, medium term and long term measures to be taken in that regard, as well as to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures’:—

Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Distance Learning Centre for the year 2019 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.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences of University of Colombo for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2021

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Sathosa Limited for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Douglas Devananda, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation - (CFHC) for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the CeyNor Foundation Limited for the year 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr) Bandula Gunawardena, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of Selacine Rupavahini Institute for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council for the year 2020;
- (iii) Annual Report of Independent Television Network Ltd. for the year 2021;
- (iv) Annual Report of Sri Lanka Institute of Printing for the year 2015;
- (v) Annual Report of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the year 2019;
- (vi) Annual Report of Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited for the year 2020;
- (vii) Annual Report of Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for the year 2019; and

(viii) Annual Report of Selacine Rupavahini Institute for the year 2019 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara, Chair of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the First Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon presented a petition dated 13.11.2022 from Mr. R. A. Sameera Kelum Priyankara of No.11, Puwakwatta, Mahawela, Matale.

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

5. Inland Revenue (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,—“Bill to amend the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017.”

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. Adjournment (Special Statement in Parliament by Hon. President on IMF Agreement) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (22nd March 2023).

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.21 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. Imran Maharoof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.58 a.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

Hon. Kabir Hashim seconded by Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara moved,—That Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.10 p.m. Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera took the Chair.)

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri seconded by Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna moved,—That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.45 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff took the Chair.)

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara seconded by Hon. Kins Nelson moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.13 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath 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 Tuesday, April 04, 2023.