



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 28.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, May 26, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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. 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. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

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

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

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

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries

Hon. Piya 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. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

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. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Chief of Staff and the Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Announcement by the Speaker : The Deputy Speaker made the following Announcement:—

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan Member of Parliament has been nominated to serve in the Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties that have arisen in relation to enhancing the rank in the Ease of Doing Business Index in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 106 of the Parliament, to fill the vacancy occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan, Member of Parliament from the Membership of the said Committee.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the Rakna Arakshaka Lanka Ltd for the years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board for the year 2021;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Management Services for the year 2022;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of Management Audit for the year 2022;
- (iv) Performance Report of the Department of Information Technology Management for the year 2022;
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Trade and Investment Policy for the year 2022;
- (vi) Performance Report of the Department of Legal Affairs for the year 2022; and
- (vii) Performance Report of the Comptroller General's Office for the year 2022

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing 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 Human Rights Commission 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 Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Leader of the House of Parliament for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117 read with Sections 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 31 of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/34 of 09th August 2022 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation from Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Naseer Ahamed, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Report of the Geological Survey & Mines Bureau for the year 2020 which was referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. D. Weerasinghe, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2019;
and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. D. Weerasinghe, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security and Agriculture presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Hadabima Authority for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2020; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Engineering Council, Sri Lanka for the year 2019

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 20.03.2023 from Mr. N. M. Dayawansa of No.139/3, 5th Lane, Moragollewa Watta, Dambulu Oya, Dambulla; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 24.03.2023 from Mr. P. D. Shirley Gunawardhane of No.132/93/F, Nahenawatta, Hunupitiya, Wattala.
- (2) Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva presented a petition dated 27.12.2022 from Mrs. Kandagamage Dona Thilaka Ranjanie of Koswatta, Thudugala, Dodangoda, Kalutara.
- (3) Hon. D. B. Herath presented a petition dated 23.03.2023 from Mr. Y. M. Pushpananda Yapa of Habarawa, Kanaththewewa.

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

5. Sitzings 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. Committee on Ethics and Privileges : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 10th February 2023, the Committee on Ethics and Privileges shall consist of twenty (20) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament, as per the decision taken on 24th May 2023, by the Committee of Selection.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Privileges : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, M.P. on 21st October, 2022 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges 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.

8. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Eran Wickramaratne seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva moved, — That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Law, No.1 of 1975.”

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 Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies for report.

9. Votes of Condolence : The Minister of Education moved the Vote of Condolence on the late Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera, ex-Member of Parliament and the former Speaker.

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.50 a.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.29 a.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, seconded by Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam moved,—That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.27 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law 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. M. Joseph Michael Perera, ex-Member of Parliament and the former Speaker and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send copy of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of their bereaved family.

10. Adjournment : The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 12.57 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 06, 2023.