



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 40.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, July 07, 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. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media

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.) 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. (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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

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. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
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. 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. 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. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
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. 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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
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. 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. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera 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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC

Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

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 inform Parliament that I have received a copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Ayurveda (Amendment)’.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. Jayantha Samarawera, Member of Parliament has been nominated to serve in the Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard, 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. Thushara Indunil Amarasekera, 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 Performance Report of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education the Annual Performance Reports of the Ministry of Education (Volume I-General Education, Volume II-Higher Education and Volume III-Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation) for the year 2022 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Environment for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) The Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, the Deputy Speaker and the Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee presented the Report of the Legislative Standing Committee on the Bill entitled, “Sri Lanka Institute of Taxation (Incorporation) (Amendment)” together with the Minutes of proceedings.”

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

Bill as reported by Legislative Standing Committee, to be considered on Tuesday, 18th July 2023.

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Transport Commission for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Transport Medical Institute for the year 2021;
and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board for the year 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. Premitha Bandara Thennakoon, Member of The Committee on behalf of the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Defence under Section 2 of the Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977 relating to declaration of designated Commonwealth Countries published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2319/30 of 14th February 2023;
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Disaster Management Centre for the years 2016 and 2019;
- (iii) Annual Reports of the Disaster Management Centre for the years 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2020;
- (iv) Annual Report of the National Building Research Organization for the year 2021;
- (v) Annual Report and Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the year 2021;
- (vi) Annual Reports of the National Building Research Organization for the years 2019 and 2020; and
- (vii) Annual Report of the National Building Research Organization for the year 2018

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera presented a petition dated 15.05.2023 from Mrs. M.K.D. Chandralatha of Rukgahaovita Road, Wilegoda, Kalutara - North.
- (2) Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena presented a petition dated 24.04.2023 from Mr. Athukoralage Raveendra Kumara of No 15, Pinnawala, Waga.

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

5. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That the Government Business shall have precedence this day.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.43 a.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.49 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,—That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.41 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clause 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Order under the Extradition Law: The Minister of Education on behalf the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,—That the Order made by the Minister of Defence under Section 2 of the Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977 relating to declaration of designated Commonwealth Countries published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2319/30 of 14th February 2023, which was presented on 23.05.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Provision of permanent addresses of Estate Houses) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed and, debated.

Question put and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.43 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 18, 2023.