



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 39.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, July 06, 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. (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. 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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

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

Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
Affairs

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, 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. 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. Sivaneshathurai 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. 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. 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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
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. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyanara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
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. 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. Dhammika Perera
Hon. Niroschan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
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

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Announcement 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. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney-at-Law to serve on the Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate Causes for Financial Bankruptcy declared by the Government and to Report to Parliament and Submit its Proposals and Recommendations in this regard:—

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

Hon. D. V. Chanaka

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Social Development for the year 2021 and moved that the Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Alleviating the Impact of the Economic Crisis.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented 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. 2335/26 of 09th June 2023 and moved those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 10A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Preferential and General Duties on imported goods and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2334/28 of 31st May 2023.

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

(4) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Foundation for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Prisons for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Performance Report of the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Sampath Athukorala, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon.(Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2019;
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Coconut Research Institute for the year 2020;
 - (iii) Annual Report of the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka - Talawakelle for the year 2019;
 - (iv) Annual Report of the Galoya Plantations (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2018/2019;
 - (v) Annual Report of the Coconut Development Authority for the year 2020;
- and

- (vi) Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority for the year 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society presented the Report of the said Committee on Anti-Corruption Bill which was referred to the Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. Dilan Perera, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and National Unity presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Reports of the National Institute of Language Education and Training for the years 2019 & 2020 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(4) The Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2019;
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation for the year 2020 and 2021;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation for the year 2020; and
- (iv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standard Monitoring Board for the year 2019 and 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(5) The Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage & New Citizen presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the year 2020;
- (ii) Annual Reports of the National Film Corporation for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017; and
- (iii) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Institute of Printing for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake presented a petition dated 21.04.2023 from Mr. Kuruwita Bandaralage Dharmasena of No. 325, Thalapitaoya (Left), Padiyadora Road, Padiyathalawa.
- (2) Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda presented a petition dated 19.05.2023 from Mrs. K.P.G. Gnanalatha of No. 68/2, Dewala Road, Mudunakade, Thalathuoya.
- (3) Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe presented a petition dated 04.05.2023 from Mr. D.R.A. Ajantha of Nilwala National College of Education, Wilpita, Akuressa.
- (4) Hon. Samanpriya Herath presented a petition dated 02.05.2023 from Mrs. R.D.P. Hemalatha of Aluthhena, Pahamune, Narammala.

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

5. Anti-Corruption Bill : Order read for resuming the adjourned debate on question (21st June 2023)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

(At 11.20 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.21 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Women and Child Affairs moved,—That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.20 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, seconded by the Hon. Niroshan Perera moved,—That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.08 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.41 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 4.39 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

6. Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Bill : Order read for resuming the adjourned debate on question (21st June 2023)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

7. Adjournment: And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Speaker without question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, July 07th, 2023.