



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 31.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, June 08, 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. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of
Industries

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. 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. 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. 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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
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. 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. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
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. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula 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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
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. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
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. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe

Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
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. (Prof.) Charitha 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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the National Police Commission for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Public Service Commission for the year 2022;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Election Commission for the year 2022;

- (iv) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat-Ampara for the year 2022;
- (v) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat (Kachcheri)-Trincomalee for the year 2022;
- (vi) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Batticaloa for the year 2022; and
- (vii) Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Gampaha for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Plantation Industries 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) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Power and Energy for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Public Security presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Public Security for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation from Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Tiran Alles, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security presented the Report of the said Committee on Regulations made by the Minister of Public Security under Section 52 read with Section 23 of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, (Chapter 351) which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Betting and Gaming Levy (Amendment) Bill; and
- (ii) Resolution under the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Heshu Withanage presented a petition dated 10.03.2023 from Mrs. Galegedara Piyaseeli Navarathna of No. 10/2, Senarathwela, Theldeniya.
- (2) Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka presented a petition dated 20.04.2022 from Mr. Ranjith Rubasinghe of 08th Post, Rajakandiya, Buththala.

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

4. Resolution under the Appropriation Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,— That this Parliament resolves that the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies with the approval of the Government, by virtue of powers vested in him by Section 8 of the Appropriation Act No. 30 of 2021 and specified in the Order No. 36 hereto, be approved:—

ORDER
Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021
Order No. 36 under Section 8

By virtue of powers vested in me by Section 8 of the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2021, I, Ranil Wickremesinghe, Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies with the approval of the Government, do by this Order, vary the limits specified against the activity Item No. 31002 “Stores Advance Account-Government Factory” of the Third Schedule to that Act.

<u>Item</u>		<u>Revision</u>	
(i)	Maximum limit of expenditure	From	Rs. 120,000,000
	specified in Column II of the Third Schedule to that Act.	To	Rs. 223,000,000
(ii)	Minimum limit of receipts specified in Column III of the Third Schedule to that Act.		Not Revised
(iii)	Maximum limit of debit balance specified in Column IV of the Third Schedule to that Act.		Not Revised
(iv)	Maximum limit of liabilities	From	Rs. 30,000,000
	specified in Column V of the Third Schedule to that Act.	To	Rs. 38,000,000

(This Order is valid up to 31.12.2022)

Ranil Wickremesinghe,
Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization
and National Policies

16.05.2023
Colombo 01.

(At 12.04 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.26 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 4.04 p.m. Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Regulations under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation under Section 71 of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469) read with Sections 2C, 5 and 5A of the aforesaid Ordinance and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/11 of 08th August 2022, which were presented on 23.02.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Immigrants and Emigrants Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Public Security under Section 52 read with Section 23 of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, (Chapter 351), which were presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture moved,— That the Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 11.11.2022 under Section 23 of the Part II State Agricultural Corporation Act, No. 11 of 1972, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka (2020) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture moved,—That the Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 11.11.2022 under Section 23 of the Part II State Agricultural Corporation Act, No. 11 of 1972, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year (2017) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 05.01.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year (2018) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 05.01.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2019) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2020) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2021) :

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. 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 : Hon Dayasiri Jayasekara seconded by Hon. Asanka Nawarathne moved,—Whereas the drug menace is currently spreading as a severe disaster in the country;

And whereas this has had a severe impact on the well-being of society not only in urban areas but also in remote rural areas;

And whereas people from all walks of life, regardless of gender, are being victimized;

And whereas school children and young generation falling prey to drug addiction is rapidly increasing;

And whereas the crimes that are committed by the organized groups related to drug trafficking, have created a terrible situation in the society;

And whereas if this situation is not controlled immediately, it will be difficult to restore the social, economic and health-related decline;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed 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.

2. (a) that the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
(b) that in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall not consist of more than twelve (12) Members.
3. The Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
 - (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
 - (d) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.
4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of six months (06) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Adjournment (Regulation of Non-Governmental Organization) :
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 4.16 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, June 09, 2023.