



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 32.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, June 09, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

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. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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. (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. 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. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Health

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. Sivanesathurai 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. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
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. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
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. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
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. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
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. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
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. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
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. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, 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. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security by the Committee of Selection on 08th June 2023, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 130(3) of the Parliament, to fill the vacancy occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Member of Parliament from the Membership of the said Committee.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the HDFC Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Excise Department of Sri Lanka for the year 2022;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Investment Promotion for the year 2022; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Census and Statistics 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.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Hambantota 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.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Kelaniya for the year 2021 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Fisheries for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the National Council for Road Safety for the years 2018 and 2019 and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries presented the—

- (i) Annual Reports of the Lanka Sugar Company (Private) Limited for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited for the year 2019/2020; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Lanka Phosphate Ltd for the year 2021/2022.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department for Registrations of Persons for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation from Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. D. Weerasingha, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, Chair of the Sports and Youth Affairs presented the Report of the said Committee on —

(i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency for the year 2020; and

(ii) Annual Report of the National Sports Fund for the year 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security presented the Report of the said Committee on “The effects of the privatization of Sri Lanka Telecom on National Security” which was referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara presented a petition dated 20.02.2023 from Mrs. K. M. A. Keerawella of Sanda Sevana, Nelliya, Minuwangate.

(2) Hon. Isuru Dodangoda presented a petition dated 30.04.2023 from Mr. A. N. P. Gunawardhana of 113/4 A, Wewewatta, Uluwitike, Galle.

(3) Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi presented a petition dated 05.06.2023 from Mr. W. Hemalal Jayasiri of No. 98/19B, Dewala Road, Pamunuwa, Maharagama.

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 moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 appearing on the Order Paper of Parliament be exempted at this day’s sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 24(2) of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into and to make suitable recommendations relating to the disasters caused by new Diamond and X-press Pearl Vessels in the Maritime Zone of Sri Lanka : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 101 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 12th May 2023, the Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into and to make suitable recommendations relating to the disasters caused by new Diamond and X-press Pearl Vessels in the Maritime Zone of Sri Lanka shall consist of Twenty (20) Members of Parliament to be appointed by the Speaker.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Eran Wickramaratne seconded by Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Value Added Tax Act, No.14 of 2002.”

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 Policy Planning for report.

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.50 a.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

8. Establishing all public institutions in Government owned buildings : Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri seconded by Hon. Kins Nelson moved,— That this Parliament resolves that action be taken by the Government to establish all public institutions in Government owned buildings only whereas a massive amount is unnecessarily spent as a result of establishing the public institutions maintained using tax monies of the public in private buildings whereas a huge amount can be saved by establishing such institutions in Government owned buildings. 2/2023

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Controlling the Toque Macaque population that damages crops : Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda seconded by Hon. Isuru Dodangoda moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a suitable programme that can scientifically control the Toque Macaque population be implemented by the government whereas massive damage is caused to the agricultural crops of Sri Lanka by wild animals, and whereas according to the reports of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, the annual damage caused to crops by wild animals is nearly 40% which amounts to over 1800 Crores, and whereas the farmer community and the national economy of the country are directly affected owing to the fact that crop damage by Toque Macaque is gradually increasing, and whereas killing Toque Macaques as a solution to this problem cannot be approved as Sri Lanka is a country that upholds a Buddhist and non-violent culture. 20/2023

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana seconded by Hon. Kins Nelson moved,— That Hon. Mohomad Muzammil do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.56 a.m. Hon. Mohomad Muzammil took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Empowerment of small and medium scale rice mill owners: Hon. Kins Nelson seconded by Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri moved,— That this Parliament resolves that an accelerated programme be setup by the government immediately, in order to solve the host of issues that the small and medium scale rice millers who are capable of controlling the price of rice in Sri Lanka, are encountered with. P.19/2023

The Minister of Agriculture moved,—That Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.02 p.m. Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Promoting a programme related to children's health education at the school level: Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe seconded by Hon. Samanpriya Herath moved,—That this Parliament resolves that a programme on children's health education be setup and implemented by the Government jointly with the health authorities that could make aware that physical health and wellness can be increased through the consumption of nutritious food as various institutions have shown that children in Sri Lanka are suffering from severe illnesses and shortened lifespan due to the consumption of toxic food. 21/2023

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 3.08 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.