



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 33.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, June 20, 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. 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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

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. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC, Minister of Foreign Affairs

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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara, State Minister of Ports and Aviation
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
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. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply
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. 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. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries
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. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
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. 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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
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. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
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. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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 Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Kins Nelson, Member of Parliament has also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Backbencher Committee, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 129 (1) and (2) of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Fourth Installment – Part XXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (ii) Fourth Installment – Part XXIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021; and
- (iii) First Installment – Parts I, II and III of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Rakna Arakshaka Lanka Ltd for the year 2019/2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Presidential Secretariat 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.

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

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of National Budget for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Fiscal Policy for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Inland Revenue Department for the year 2022; and
- (iv) Final Budget Position Report – 2002 in terms of Section 13 of the Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act, No. 3 of 2003.

and moved that those Reports 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 Proclamation made and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2336/78 of 17th June 2023 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the president in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979.

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

(6) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences of University of Colombo for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department of Ayurveda for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2021 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau for the year 2020 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries presented the —

- (i) Annual Reports of the National Paper Company Limited for the years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Industries 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.

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Foreign Employment & Labour.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) The Hon. Ajith Rajapaksa, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees presented the Second Report of the Ministerial Consultative Committees for the First Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the above Committee on the Parliamentary Budget Office Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. Hector Appuhamy, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Foreign Employment and Labour presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Report of the National Institute of Labour Studies for the year 2020 which was referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 02.04.2023 from Mr. Sarath Janaka Algewatta of Mudillagahawatta, Pelena, Weligama.
- (2) Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 06.04.2023 from Mr. K. M. K. B. Kulathunga of No. 302/3, Wewathenna Road, Ampitiya; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 06.04.2023 from Mr. Y. M. Chandrasekara Banda of No. 122/2B, Poojagoda, Handessa.
- (3) Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena presented a petition dated 20.03.2023 from Mr. G. G. A. Indrajith of No. 85/9, Karthelis Jayasinghe Mawatha, Kirimettawatha, Meegoda.

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

5. 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: 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 19th January 2023, 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 shall consist of Fifteen (15) Members of Parliament to be appointed by the Speaker.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Select Committee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations over the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka as specified in the Resolution adopted by Parliament on 04th April 2023 be extended up to 21st July 2023 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Parliamentary Budget Office Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.17 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Finance moved,—That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.15 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs moved,—That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.09 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 3.59 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 to 36 were agreed to.

Clause 37

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 29 and 30 (both inclusive) in page 22 and substitute the following:—

“Finance for the ensuing financial year in accordance with the guidelines for the preparation of the budget within the time period as specified in the Budget Call Circular issued by the Department of National Budget of the General Treasury.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 4 and 5 (both inclusive) in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“Officer and Parliament in accordance with the guidelines for the preparation of the budget within the time period as specified in the Budget Call Circular issued by the Department of National Budget of the General Treasury.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 8 and 9 (both inclusive) in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“subject of Finance to be included in to the budget in accordance with the guidelines for the preparation of the budget within the time period as specified in the Budget Call Circular issued by the Department of National Budget of the General Treasury.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 38 to 45 were agreed to.

Clauses 46

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 1 to 4 (both inclusive) in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“Committee on Public Finance” and “Committee on Ways and Means” means the Committee on Public Finance and Committee on Ways and Means appointed by Parliament in terms of the Standing Orders;”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 47 was agreed.

Enacting Clause and Title

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

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

8. Balapitiya Sri Rahularama Purana Viharastha Samanera Akalpa Sangwardena Bikshu Vidyalaya (Incorporation) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

Bill, as amended in the Legislative Standing Committee Considered.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Speaker to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament

9. Adjournment (Provision of Religious Education to School Children) : 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 4.53 adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2023.