



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 44.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, July 21, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and
Aviation

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. 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. Sivanesanthurai 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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
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. 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. (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. 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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
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. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
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. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
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. Mahinda Rajapaksa

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
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. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha 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 in addition to copies of six petitions that I have announced on 07th and 18th July 2023, I have received the copies of four more petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Ayurveda (Amendment)’ and in addition to the copies of five petitions that I have announced on 18th July 2023, I have received the copies of four more petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of each of the Bills titled ‘Pradeshiya Sabha (Amendment), ‘Urban Councils (Amendment)’ and ‘Municipal Councils (Amendment)’ .”

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

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XXXIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;
- (ii) Second Installment – Parts XLVIII and XLIX and Ninth Installment – Part XXXVII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (iii) Second Installment – Parts XXXVII, XXXVIII, XXXIX and XL, Third Installment – Parts XVIII and XIX and Ninth Instalment – Parts XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX and XXX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021; and
- (iv) Second Installment – Parts I, II, III and IV, Third Installment – Part I and Ninth Installment – Part I 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 Reports do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Lotteries Board for the year 2021 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 Education presented the Annual Report of the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority 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 Hon. Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) The Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Chair of the Select Committee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka presented the Report of the said Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the Betting and Gaming Levy (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. Ajith Mammapperuma, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development and presented the Report of the said Committee on “X-Press Pearl Disaster and Obtaining Compensation”.

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

(4) The Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Wijaya Kumaranatunga Memorial Hospital for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol for the year 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara presented a petition dated 17.05.2023 from Mr. W. T. K. Wijesekara and three others of Ambalakanda, Aranayaka
- (2) Hon. S. M. Marikkar presented a petition dated 17.05.2023 from Mr. A.R.W.M. Upul Nilantha Senewirathna of 187/01/2D, Munamalewatta Road, Kiriwaththuduwa, Homagama.

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

5. Banking (Special Provisions) 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.

The State Minister of Finance moved,—That Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.12 a.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security moved,—That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.24 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Tourism moved,—That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.28 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Higher Education moved,—That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.13 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 4.31 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 the 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.

Clauses 1 to 14 were agreed to.

Clause 15

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 19 in page 19 and substitute the following:—

“as may be necessary or desirable for the financial”;

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 16 was agreed to.

Clause 17

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies an amendment to leave out line 17 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“continuance of any proceedings of a civil nature against the”;

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 another amendment to leave out line 21 and 22 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“not exceeding three months the continuance of any proceedings of a civil nature against the licensed bank”;

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 18 to 39 were agreed to.

Clause 40

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 28 in page 48 and substitute the following:—

“exercise, perform, and discharge all the powers, duties and”;

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 41 to 49 were agreed to.

Clause 50

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 21 in page 56 :—

- “(b) to enter into agreements with any international financial institution in the name of the Deposit Insurance Fund to ensure the effective administration and management of the Deposit Insurance Fund;
- (c) to accept the Government or any international financial institution, any grant or aid, or borrowing in the name of the Deposit Insurance Fund, as it may consider necessary;”;

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 51

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 13 in page 58 and substitute the following:—

- “(h) the borrowings from the Government or any international financial institution, as may be approved by the Central Bank; and”;

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 line 22 in page 58 and substitute the following:—

“Insurance Fund;

- (c) repaying of any borrowings obtained from the Government or any international financial institution; and;”;

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 52 and 53 were agreed to.

Clauses 54

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an another amendment to leave out line 12 in page 60 and substitute the following:—

“financial year and such financial statements shall be audited by the Auditor-General.”;

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 55 to 71 were agreed to.

Clause 72

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 in page 73 and substitute the following:—

“(3) The Central Bank shall, if it is satisfied with the content.”;

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 73 was agreed to.

Clause 74

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 12 in page 75 and substitute the following:—

“(3) The knowledge referred to in subsection (2) shall be”;

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 75 to 84 were agreed to.

Clause 85

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 28 in page 86 and substitute the following:—

“winding up order made under subsection (6) of”;

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 line 7 in page 87 and substitute the following:—

“under subsection (6) of section 67;”;

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 86

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 24 and 25 in page 87 and substitute the following:—

“to winding up, consisting of claims admitted under section 80 and 81,
and submit the same for approval of the”;

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 87 to 92 were agreed to.

Clause 93

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 31 in page 99:—

“ “international financial institutions” includes the Asian Development Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, the International Monetary Fund or similar institutions;”

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 94 to 98 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 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.

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

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 08, 2023.