



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 52.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, August 25, 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. (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. (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. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms

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. 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. 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. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
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. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath

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

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, the Hon. Speaker has nominated the following Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Heart to Heart Trust Fund (Incorporation) Bill’:-

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the National Audit Office in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Account.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 19A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) as amended by the Customs (Amendment) Law No. 35 of 1974 and the Customs (Amendment) Act, No. 83 of 1988 relating to Customs Import duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2344/28 of 11th August 2023.

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

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Industries under Section 527 read with Section 222 of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2323/41 of 17th March 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera presented a petition dated 28.05.2023 from Mr. W.A. Geethanga Shaminda Chandrarathna of No 26, Kannangarapuragama, Kotiyakumbura.

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

4. Sitzings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Vote of Condolence : The Minister of Education moved the Votes of Condolence on the late Hon. S.A.R. Maddumabandara, late Hon. B. Sirisena Cooray, and late Hon. (Ven.) Udawatte Nanda Thero ex-Members of Parliament.

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.45 a.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.07 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka, seconded by Hon. Isuru Dodangoda moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.28 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake took the Chair.)

The Presiding Member announced that the Speaker and himself associated together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of the late Hon. S.A.R. Maddumabandara, late Hon. B. Sirisena Cooray, and late Hon. (Ven.) Udawatte Nanda Thero ex-Members of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send copies of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of their bereaved families.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 2.32 p.m adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 05, 2023.