



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 57.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, September 19, 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. 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. (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. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, Minister of Wildlife
and Forest Resources Conservation

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanethurai 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. 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. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion
Hon. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera

Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
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. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularathne, Chief of Staff and Deputy 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:—

I

“I wish to inform that under the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled ‘Inland Revenue (Amendment)’ and ‘Social Security Contribution Levy (Amendment)’, on 08th September 2023 and endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled ‘Central Bank of Sri Lanka’ and ‘Banking (Special Provisions)’ on 14th September 2023.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Value Added Tax (Amendment)’.”

III

“I wish to inform Parliament that Mr. Gardiwasam Kodikara Appuhamillage Chaminda Kumara Kularatne has been appointed to the post of Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary General of Parliament with effect from Friday, the 15th of September 2023.”

IV

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Samadhi Community Development Foundation (Incorporation)’ Bill:-

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
 Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
 Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
 Hon. Kins Nelson
 Hon. Rohana Bandara
 Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
 Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
 Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara”

V

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Sri Balabhivurdhi Wardana Samithiya (Incorporation)’ Bill:-

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
 Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
 Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
 Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
 Hon. Kins Nelson
 Hon. Rohana Bandara
 Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
 Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake”

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

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part I of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2009;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part LI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;
- (iii) Second Installment – Part LI and Ninth Installment – Part XXXIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (iv) Second Installment – Parts XLI and XLII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021; and
- (v) Second Installment – Parts X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI, Third Installment – Parts V, VI, VII and VIII and Ninth Instalment – Parts VI and VII 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 Speaker presented the Tenth Installment – Part II of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on the International Cricket Council Men's T-20 World Cup Cricket Tournament – 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.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Customs 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.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption 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.

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

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2332/14 of 17th May 2023;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2332/53 of 20th May 2023;
- (iii) Order made by the Acting Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2337/16 of 22nd June 2023;
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2340/45 of 13th July 2023;
- (v) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2336/72 of 16th June 2023);

- (vi) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2338/54 of 30th June 2023);
- (vii) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2341/64 of 21st July 2023);
- (viii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic and Policy Development under Section 107A(1) of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) as amended, relating to Customs Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2329/46 of 28th April 2023; and
- (ix) Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and relevant Regulatory Authorities under Section 71 read with Sections 27, 36, 37, 39, 40 and 64 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2339/31 of 07th July 2023.

and moved that those Orders, Resolutions and Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Proclamation made and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2349/19 of 12th September 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 the said paper do lie upon the **Table**.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Shrama Vasana Fund for the year 2022 and move 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) Hon. Tiran Alles, the Chair of Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security presented the Report of the said Committee on Regulations made by the Minister of Public Security on 09th August 2023 under Section 52 of the Registration of Persons Act No. 32 of 1968 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. W.D.J. Senevirathne, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society and presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Elections (Special Provisions) Bill; and
- (ii) Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No.11 of 2021 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Ajith Mammapperuma, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Environment for the year 2022 which was referred to the Committee.

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

(5) Hon. Hector Appuhamy, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Foreign Employment and Labour presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for the year 2021 which was referred to the Committee.

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

(6) The Hon. D. Weerasinghe, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security and Agriculture presented the Report of the said Committee on Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the Committee.

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

(7) Hon. D. Weerasinghe, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security and Agriculture presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of Ministry of Agriculture 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of Ministry of Fisheries 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Report of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation 2016

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka presented a petition dated 19.08.2023 from Mrs. E. D. Sumanawathi of Ankada, Waradola, Gamewela.
- (2) Hon. D. Weerasingha presented a petition dated 03.08.2023 from Mr. W.M. Sirisena of A 04, Grama No. 07, Muwangala, Hingurana.

- (3) Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama presented a petition dated 08.08.2023 from Mrs. M. K. Wimalawathi of No. 295, Rathmalkadura, Siripura, Polonnaruwa.

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

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.09 a.m. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

5. Regulations under the Registration of Persons 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 of the Registration of Persons Act, No. 32 of 1968 on 09th August 2023, which were presented on 22.08.2023, be approved.

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and relevant Regulatory Authorities under Section 71 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2334/47 of 02nd June 2023, which were presented on 05.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment: 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 Wednesday, September 20, 2023.