



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 58.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, September 20, 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. (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. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe, State Minister of Women and Child
Affairs

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. 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. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply
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. (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. 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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
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. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda

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. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma 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. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
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. Waruna Liyanage
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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Kabir Hashim
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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

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

“I wish to inform that under the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Hon. Speaker has endorsed the certificate on the Bill titled ‘Chartered Institute of Transport of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) (Amendment)’ on 19th September 2023.”

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

- (i) Performance Report and Accounts of the Registrar General’s Department for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Delimitation Commission for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Performance Report of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal 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.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Proclamation made and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2349/44 of 17th 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 papers do lie upon the **Table**.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Health for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana Member of the Legislative standing Committee on behalf of the Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, the Deputy Speaker and the Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee presented the Report of the above Committee on the Bill titled, “Balapitiya Sri Rahularama Purana Viharastha Samanera Akalpa Sangwardena Bikshu Vidyalaya (Incorporation)” together with the Minutes of proceedings.

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

Bill, as reported by Legislative Standing Committee, to be considered on Thursday, 21st September 2023.

(2) Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife & Forest Resources Conservation presented the said Committee on Wildlife & Forest Resources Conservation on Regulations made by the Minister of Wildlife, and Forest Resources Conservation under Section 64(2) (f) read with Section 24(1) (p), (q) and (r), Section 64(1) read with Sections 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D and 28(3), Section 24(1), Sections 3A (3), (4) and (5), Section 6 and Section 64, Section 3(4) and Section 64 and Section 64 read with Sections 58 and 59 of the Forest Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 451) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2346/02 of 21st August 2023 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Sri Lanka Ports Authority (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Nalin Fernando presented a petition dated 07.07.2023 from Mr. P. D. A. T. Hewawansa of No. 380/A, Jaya Mawatha, Polpitimukalana, Kandana.
- (2) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 15.08.2023 from Mr. K. L. C. Nishantha of Gorakagaha Koratuwa, Kokmaduwa, Weligama; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 15.08.2023 from Mrs. M. N. F. Fazla of No. 10/1A, 2nd Lane, Hetti Weediya, Weligama.

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 No. 1 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Resolution under the Essential Public Services 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 this Parliament resolves that 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, which was presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Forest Conservation Ordinance : The Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Wildlife, and Forest Resources Conservation under Section 64(2) (f) read with Section 24(1) (p), (q) and (r), Section 64(1) read with Sections 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D and 28(3), Section 24(1), Sections 3A (3), (4) and (5), Sections 6 and 64, Section 3(4) and Section 64 and Section 64 read with Sections 58 and 59 of the Forest Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 451) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2346/02 of 21st August 2023, which were presented on 05.09.2023, be approved.

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya, seconded by Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.00 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayaka, seconded by Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi moved,—That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.11 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama, seconded by Hon. Kins Nelson moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayaka do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.16 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayaka took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Impact of strikes by Institutions providing Essential Services) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; And it being 4.48 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2023.