



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 59.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, September 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. 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. (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. 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.) Diana Gamage, State Minister of Tourism

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivanesathurai 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. 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. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
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. 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. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroschan 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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
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. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

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 Announcement:—

I wish to emphasize that it is the responsibility of all Honourable Members to safeguard the independence of the Honorable Court and Judges.

Accordingly, I would like to draw the attention of Honorable Members to the Standing Order 83(1), that is, the personal conduct of the Judges of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal shall not be raised except upon a Substantive Motion. Accordingly, I hereby emphasize that all Honourable Members shall comply with the said Standing Order, and also I hereby wish to inform that such statements and related words made in violation of the said Standing Order will be expunged from the Hansard Report."

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department of Samurdhi Development for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Rehabilitation of the Visually Handicapped Trust Fund for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45(1A) of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2347/10 of 29th August 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Coconut Research Institute for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education presented the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Arthur C. Clarke Institution for Modern Technologies for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2021;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for the year 2021;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for the year 2021;
- (v) Annual Reports of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka for the years 2020 and 2021;
- (vi) Annual Report of the National Engineering Research and Development Centre for the year 2020;

- (vii) Annual Performance Reports of the Ministry of Education (Volume I- General Education, Volume II-Higher Education and Volume III-Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation) for the year 2022;
- (viii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2021;
- (ix) Annual Report of the Skills Development Fund Limited for the year 2020;
- (x) Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements of the Institute of Human Resources Advancement of the University of Colombo for the year 2021;
- (xi) Annual Report of the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority for the year 2021; and
- (xii) Annual Reports of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for the years 2020 and 2021

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage & New Citizen presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Mass Media for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of Department of Posts for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of Department of Government Printing for the year 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara presented a petition dated 03.08.2023 from Mr. G. M. Wijerathna of No 245, Henanigala North, Nawamedagama.
- (2) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 08.08.2023 from Ms. J. C. K. Ramya of No. 226/C, Ruksewana, Deenapamunuwa, Urapola.

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

5. Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,— Bill to amend the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, October 05, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding.

6. Sittings 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 9.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. 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.

8. 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. 2349/44 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, which was presented on 20.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Ester Sunday attack and National Security at present) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 10.48 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Higher Education moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.48 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe moved,—That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.49 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

The Minister of Agriculture moved,—That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.15 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.35 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Primary Industries moved,—That Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.08 p.m. Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal took the Chair.)

Debate to be resumed on Friday, September 22, 2023.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned at 6.29 p.m. by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, September 22, 2023.