



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 61.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, October 03, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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. 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. Jeevan Thondaman, Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure
Development

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. (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. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
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. 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. 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. 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. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena

Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
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. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge

Hon. Gamini Waleboda
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. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mr. Chaminda Kularathne, Acting Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Messages from the President : The Deputy Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/4/5/1

September 25th, 2023

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,


Ranil Wickremesinghe
President

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Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the Welfare Benefits Board for the years 2020 and 2021 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2329/19 of 25th April 2023;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2342/24 of 25th July 2023;
- (iii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 51 read with Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2334/24 of 31st May 2023;
- (iv) Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 51 read with Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2340/42 of 13th July 2023;
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2334/23 of 31st May 2023;
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2336/69 of 16th June 2023;
- (vii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2338/58 of 30th June 2023;
- (viii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2, 12, 22 and 25 read with Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) regarding Amendment of Regulations on Non Potable Spirits Imported into Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2336/70 of 16th June 2023,
(Excise Notification No. 01/2023);
- (ix) Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 22 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise Duty on Liquor and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2338/57 of 30th June 2023,
(Excise Notification No. 02/2023);

- (x) Order made by the Acting Minister of Investment Promotion with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 14(2) of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2341/63 of 21st July 2023; and
- (xi) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2347/08 of 29th August 2023.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Debt Conciliation Board for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) The Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Rules made by the incorporated Council of Legal Education with the concurrence of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 7 of the Incorporated Council of Legal Education Ordinance (Chapter 276) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2332/02 of 15th May 2023;
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 27 read with Section 4(2) of the Mediation (Special Categories of Disputes) Act, No. 21 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2314/80 of 14th January 2023; and
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 29A (2) of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2328/16 of 21st April 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva , the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Resolutions under the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235); and

- (ii) Resolution for providing the pensionable allowance of Rs. 50,000.00 to the Auditor General

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Lalith Ellawala presented a petition dated 26.06.2023 from Mrs. Nandani Seetha Rathnaweera of No 81, 3rd Step, Narthanagala, Horana.
- (2) Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka presented a petition dated 19.07.2023 from Mr. Sinnayiya Suppayiya of Parawilawatta, Kumbukkana, Monaragala.

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

5. Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre Trust: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health presented,— Bill to provide for the establishment of a trust called the Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre Trust and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health.

6. Online Safety: The Minister of Public Security presented,— Bill to establish the Online Safety Commission; to make provisions to prohibit online communication of certain statements of fact in Sri Lanka; to prevent the use of online accounts and inauthentic online accounts for prohibited purposes; to make provisions to identify and declare online locations used for prohibited purposes in Sri Lanka; to suppress the financing and other support of communication of false statements of fact and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

7. Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on Behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.33 a.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.20 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—That Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.50 p.m. Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura took the Chair.)

Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan, seconded by Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen moved,—That Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.25 p.m. Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.48 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 4.45 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms 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.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed amendment to leave out line 10 and 11 in page 1 and substitute the following :—

“ for a certified copy of the judgement or final decree of the action or both, issue one certified copy ”.

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 3 was 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 Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms 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.

8. Elections (Special Provisions) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms 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 10 were agreed to.

Schedules one to four 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 without Amendments.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

9. Regulations under the Mediation (Special Categories of Disputes) Act : The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 27 read with Section 4(2) of the Mediation (Special Categories of Disputes) Act, No. 21 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2314/80 of 14th January 2023, which were presented on 08.08.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Order under the Judicature Act : The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,— That the Order made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 29A(2) of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2328/16 of 21st April 2023, which were presented on 08.08.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Adjournment (Ensuring a Secure Future for Children): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.41 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put; pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 04, 2023.