



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 62.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, October 04, 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. (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. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law, Minister of Education and Leader
of the House of Parliament

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

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 Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC, Minister of Foreign Affairs

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. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

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. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
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. 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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
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. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
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. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda 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. 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. 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. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
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. Mahinda Rajapaksa
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. 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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Deputy Speaker made the following Announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. Speaker has received copies of two petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Online Safety’.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Deputy Speaker tabled the Budget Estimate of the National Audit Office for the year 2024 prepared by the National Audit Office along with the observations of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance in terms of Section 34 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

The Leader of the House of Parliament moved that the Budget Estimate be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Deputy Speaker presented the First Installment – Parts XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX and XX, Fourth Installment – Parts III, IV, V and VI, Fifth Installment – Parts IV and V and Sixth Installment – Parts III, IV and V 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 Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(3) The Deputy Speaker presented the Tenth Installment – Part III of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Fraudulent Entry of Chassis Numbers and Engine Numbers of Illegally Imported or Assembled Vehicles into the Motor vehicle Registration Data System and Issuance of False Motor vehicle Registration Certificates - 2022 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : The Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law, Member of the Committee, on behalf of the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report on the Orders under the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne presented a petition dated 16.06.2023 from Mr. W. Raj Mendis Abeysekara of No. 10/A, Dambahena Road, Maharagama.

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

5. National Eye Bank Trust of Sri Lanka Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Health moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 12.35 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Industries moved,—That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.12 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,—That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.38 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 4.46 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health 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 and 2 were agreed to.

Clause 3

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed an amendment to leave out line 27 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“as may be prescribed:

Provided however, in providing corneal and other tissues in terms of this paragraph priority shall be given, in all instances, to requests made by Government hospitals and Sri Lankan citizens.”;

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 4

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed an amendment to leave out lines 7 to 9 (both inclusive) in page 3 and substitute the following:—

- “(i) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Health who shall serve as the Chairman (hereinafter referred to as “the Chairman”) of the Board;
- (ii) the Director-General of Health Services;”;

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.

Clauses 5 to 7 were agreed to.

Clause 8

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed an amendment to leave out lines 3 and 4 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“Chairman from any meeting, the Director-General of Health Services shall preside such meeting.”;

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.

Clauses 9 and 10 were agreed to.

Clause 11

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed an amendment to leave out line 8 in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“prepared by the Board in consultation with the Ministry of Health in line with the”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed another amendment to leave out line 6 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“(r) to accept and receive, grants gifts, donations and”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed another amendment to leave out lines 19 and 20 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“(t) generally, to do such other acts and things as are authorized by this Act to facilitate the proper”;

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.

Clauses 12 to 17 were agreed to.

Clause 18

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed an amendment to leave out lines 4 to 6 (both inclusive) in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“of its assets and liabilities. The audited accounts of the Trust for the year along with the Auditor-General’s report shall also be attached to such report.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed another amendment to leave out lines 9 and 10 in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“the document specified in subsection (1) in Parliament for its consideration.”;

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.

Clauses 19 to 26 were agreed to.

Clause 27

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed an amendment to leave out line 10 page in 16 and substitute the following:—

“surgery;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed another amendment to leave out line 13 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“other countries; and

(f) matters relating to the electronic submission of requests for corneal and other tissues.”;

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.

Clauses 28 and 29 were agreed to.

Clause 30

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Health proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 in page 18 and substitute the following:—

“of commencement of this Act.”;

(4) Any request for corneal and other tissues made on or after the date of commencement of this Act but prior to the date of operation of any regulation made under this Act in respect of electronic submission of requests for corneal and other tissues, shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to be validly made under this Act and may be addressed accordingly.”.

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.

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 Education on behalf of the Minister of Health 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.

6. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance (No.1): The Minister of Education on behalf of Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2336/72 of 16th June 2023)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance (No.2) : 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 Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2338/54 of 30th June 2023)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance (No.3) : 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 Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2341/64 of 21st July 2023)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.1) : 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 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, which was presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.2) : 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 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, which was presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.3): 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 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, which was presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No.4) : 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 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, which was presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Determination under the Constitution : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— Whereas the Auditor-General is appointed by the President subject to the approval of the Constitutional Council, in terms of Article 153 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka;

And whereas the salary of the Auditor-General is determined by the Parliament in terms of Article 153(2) of the Constitution, and it shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund;

And whereas the Cabinet Memorandum dated 28th August 2023 presented by the President, was considered at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 04th September 2023, and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted to pay pensionable allowances to the Auditor-General as follows:—

(a) to pay a pensionable monthly allowance of Rs. 25,000.00 to the Auditor-General from 01.07.2019 to 31.12.2022; and

(b) to increase the above mentioned allowance of Rs. 25,000.00 up to a pensionable allowance of Rs. 50,000.00 with effect from 01.01.2023.

Accordingly, that this Parliament determines to pay the aforesaid pensionable allowances to the Auditor-General, to be charged to the Consolidated Fund, in terms of Article 153(2) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Question put, and agreed to

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

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 Thursday, October 05, 2023.