



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 63.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, October 05, 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. 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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
Affairs

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, 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. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, State Minister of Tourism

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy
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. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
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. 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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
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. Sampath Athukorala
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. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
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. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
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. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Dhammika Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
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. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Legal Draftsman's Department for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Environment in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) The Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117 read with Sections 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 31 of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/34 of 09th August 2022; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117(2)(p) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 read with Sections 6, 10, 11, 26, 31(d), (e), (f), (g) and (h) of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2326/16 of 03rd April 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. S. Viyalandera, Member of the Committee, on behalf of the Nalin Fernando, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security presented the Report of the said Committee on Notification made by the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security under Section 4(1)(f) of the Measurement Units, Standard and Services Act, No. 35 of 1995 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2294/54 of 26th August 2022 which was referred to the Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat-Kalutara for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance and Accounts Report of District Secretariat- Gampaha for the year 2022;

- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat- Galle for the year 2022;
- (iv) Performance Report of the District Secretariat- Matara for the year 2022;
- (v) Performance Report of the District Secretariat- Hambantota for the year 2022;
- (vi) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat- Kegalle for the year 2022;
- (vii) Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Rathnapura for the year 2022;
- (viii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat- Kurunegala for the year 2022; and
- (ix) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat- Puttalam for the year 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(4) The Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda, the Chair of the Sectoral oversight Committee on Energy & Transport presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Reports of the National Council for Road Safety for the Year 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(5) The Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda, the Chair of the Sectoral oversight Committee on Energy & Transport presented the Report of the said Committee on Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 28.08.2023 from Mr. Ariyaratna Martin of S.M.C Enterprises (pvt) Ltd, No. 191/23, Samagi Mawatha, Maladola Watta, Kadawatha.

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

4. Appropriation : The Minister of Education on behalf the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,— Bill to provide for the service of the financial year 2024; to authorize the raising of loans in or outside Sri Lanka, for the purpose of such service; to make financial provision in respect of certain activities of the Government during that financial year; to enable the payment by way of advances out of the Consolidated Fund or any other fund or moneys, of or at the disposal of the Government, of moneys required during that financial year for

expenditure on such activities; to provide for the refund of such moneys to the Consolidated Fund and to make provision for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, November 19, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

5. The Leader of the House of Parliament moved : Select Committee of Parliament to look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short term, medium term and long term measures to be taken in that regard, as well as to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short term, medium term and long term measures to be taken in that regard, as well as to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 19th January 2023 be extended up to 05th January 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Sri Lanka Ports Authority (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on Behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Rohana Bandara seconded by, Hon. Faizal Cassim moved,—That Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri, do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.10 a.m. Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam, do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.51 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law , do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.45 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 4.47 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question Put, and agreed to.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation 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 3 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 Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation 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 3 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 Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

8. Regulations under the Civil Aviation Act (No.1):The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117 read with Sections 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 31 of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/34 of 09th August 2022, which were presented on 26.05.2023, be approved.

Question out, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Civil Aviation Act (No.2):The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117(2)(p) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 read with Sections 6, 10, 11, 26, 31 (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h) of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2326/16 of 03rd April 2023, which were presented on 22.08.2023, be approved.

Question out, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 10 read with Section 3(5) of the Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators Act, No. 10 of 1972 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2287/24 of 07th July 2022, which were presented on 23.05.2023, be approved.

Question out, and agreed to.

11. Amendment to the resolution for the constitution of the “Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties that have arisen in relation to enhancing the rank in the Ease of Doing Business Index in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations”: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That the Resolution which was duly adopted by Parliament on 04th October 2022 be amended as follows as per the decision of the Committee on Parliamentary Business at its meeting held on 22nd September 2023:—

Title:

Delete the Title and substitute the following:—

“The Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties in relation to preparation for the proposed ‘Business Ready (B-READY) Index’ in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations.”;

Part 1:

Delete paragraph two and substitute the following:—

“However the World Bank’s ‘Ease of Doing Business’ index was discontinued in 2021 concerning about data irregularities and in May 2023, the World Bank has launched the new index under the rebranded name ‘Business Ready (B-READY)’ rankings;

Whereas preparation for the new ‘Business Ready (B-READY) Index’ ranking will help attracting foreign investments to this country and encouraging large-scale and small & medium-scale enterprises in the local public and private sector as well as youth entrepreneurship;”

Delete paragraph five and substitute the following:—

“Whereas it has been identified that various difficulties have to be faced in preparation for the new ‘Business Ready (B-READY) Index’ ranking; and”

“Except the aforementioned amendments, other parts of the Resolution, which was duly adopted by Parliament on 04th October 2022, remain unchanged.”

Question out, and agreed to.

12. Adjournment (Specification of Proper Standards for Food): The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated

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 Friday, October 06, 2023.