



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 64.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, October 06, 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. 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. 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. 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. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

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. 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. 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. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith 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. Gevindu Cumaratunga

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
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. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara

Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. 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. Kabir Hashim

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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 Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.

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

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. Speaker has received the copies of two more Petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Online Safety’, in addition to the receipt of two Petitions mentioned in the announcement on 04th October 2023.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.08.2023 to 31.08.2023 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 43 of 2022.

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

(2) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Youth Corps for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Irrigation Department for the year 2022. and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : The Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara, Chair of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the Second Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya presented a petition dated 05.08.2023 from Ms. Wickramage Premalatha of No. 82, Kandy Road, Warakapola.

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

5. Sitzings of the Parliament : The Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf 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 10.30 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.

6. Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate Causes for Financial Bankruptcy declared by the Government and to Report to Parliament and Submit its Proposals and Recommendations in this regard: The Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate Causes for Financial Bankruptcy declared by the Government and to Report to Parliament and Submit its Proposals and Recommendations in this regard, as specified in the Resolutions passed by Parliament on 19th January 2023 and 06th June 2023 be extended up to 18th 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.

7. Privileges: The Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, M.P. on 05th October, 2023 in Parliament to the effect that her privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Brain Drain Due to Economic Crisis): The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed and debated

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath, do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.07 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Indigenous Medicine moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya, do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.17 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Justice and Prisons Affairs moved,—That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake, do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.20 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. at 6.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put Pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.