



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 67.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, October 19, 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. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of
Industries

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and
Chief Government Whip

Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of
Irrigation

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 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. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. Premalal Jayasekara, State Minister of Ports and Aviation
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. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
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. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
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. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
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. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. Piyanara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. 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. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

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 inform Parliament that in addition to the copies of forty-five petitions that I have announced on 04th, 06th, 17th and 18th October 2023, I have received a copy of another petition 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 Speaker presented the Eighth Installment – Part IV of the Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Performance of Purchasing Containerized Mobile Diesel Generators in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Speaker presented the First Report of the Constitutional Council For the period from January to July 2023 in terms of Article 41G (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Proclamation made and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2354/08 of 17th October 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.

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

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Education Commission for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the —

- (i) Orders made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Education Honours in Information Technology Degree awarded by Horizon College of Business Technology (Private) Limited and Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (Guarantee) Limited (SLIIT) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2340/41 of 12th July 2023;

- (ii) Orders made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Science Honours in Nutrition and Health Degree awarded by National School of Business Management Limited (NSBM), Bachelor of Management Honours in Business Analytics and Bachelor of Management in Business Analytics Degrees awarded by Institute of Chartered Accounts of Sri Lanka (ICASL) and the Bachelor of Science Honours in Biomedical Sciences Degree awarded by Royal Institute of Colombo (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2341/08 of 17th July 2023;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business Management Honours in Logistics and Supply Chain Management Degree awarded by Saegis Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2342/16 of 25th July 2023;
- (iv) Orders made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business Management Honours in Accounting and Finance and Bachelor of Education Honours in Early Childhood Education Degrees awarded by Benedict XVI Catholic Institute of Higher Education (Private) Limited and Bachelor of Education Honours in Sports and Physical Education and Bachelor of Business Management Honours in Marketing Degrees awarded by CINEC Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2343/03 of 31st July 2023; and
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to KAATSU - Highly Advanced Medical Technology Training Centre (Pvt) Limited (KIU) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2345/35 of 15th August 2023.

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

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) 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 Mass Media in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament;
- (ii) 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 Department of Government Printing in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament;
- (iii) 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 Department of Government Information in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and

- (iv) 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 Department of Post in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question out, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Institute of Plantation for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Chilaw Plantation Ltd for the year 2020;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Authority for the year 2020; and
- (iv) Annual Report of the Telecommunication Regularity Commission for the year 2021

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the BCC Lanka Limited for the year 2020/2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Cement Cooperation for the year 2021;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Cooperative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2019;
- (iv) Annual Report of Consumer Affairs Authority for the year 2021; and
- (v) Annual Reports of the Palmyra Development Board for the years 2018 and 2019

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

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

- (i) Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989; and
- (ii) Budget Estimates of the National Audit Office for the Year 2024

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

Suspension of Sittings

At 10.42 a.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 11.05 a.m.

At 11.05 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

4. Regulations under the Customs Ordinance : The Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic and Policy Development under Section 107A(1) of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) as amended, relating to Customs Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2329/46 of 28th April 2023, which were presented on 19.09.2023, be approved.

(At 11.40 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Finance moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 1.10 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe, seconded by Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 2.57 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala, seconded by Hon. Eran Wickramaratne moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 3.37 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance : The Urban Development and Housing 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. 2336/72 of 16th June 2023)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No.1) : The Urban Development and Housing 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 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, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No.2) : The Urban Development and Housing 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 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, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No.3) : The Urban Development and Housing 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 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, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Notification under the Finance Act (No.1) : The Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Notification under the Finance Act (No.2) : The Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Order under the Finance Act (No.1) : The Urban Development and Housing 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(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2329/19 of 25th April 2023, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Order under the Finance Act (No.2) : The Urban Development and Housing 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(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2342/24 of 25th July 2023, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No.1): The Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 01/2023)

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No.2): The Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 03.10.2023, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 02/2023)

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Adjournment : The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.07 p.m. 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 Friday, October 20th, 2023.