



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 70.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, November 08, 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 and Plantation Industries

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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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

Hon. Nalin Fernando, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Environment

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms

Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
Affairs

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, 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. (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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
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. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
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. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries
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. 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. 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. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
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. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharooof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake

Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
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. 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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Deputy Speaker presented the Annual Report of the Auditor General for the 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**.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka for the years 2020 and 2021 and moved that the Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) The Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Justice and Law-Adiding Society presented the Report of the Committee on—

- (i) Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Contempt of a Court, Tribunal, or Institution Bill; and
- (iii) Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Defence Services Command and Staff College for the year 2021;

- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Air Force for the year 2022;
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Navy for the year 2022;
- (v) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Army for the year 2022;
- (vi) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard for the year 2022;
and
- (vii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Civil Security for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

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

- (i) Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No.11 of 2021; and
- (ii) Resolution on the supplementary estimate to allocate additional allocations to restructure the balance sheet items of Sri Lankan Airlines and Ceylon Electricity Board

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petition :

- (1) Hon. Premalal Jayasekara presented a petition dated 31.08.2023 from Mr. K. H. Dinesh of No. 334/B/01, 05th Post, Panamure.
- (2) Hon. Waruna Liyanage presented a petition dated 06.08.2023 from Mr. J. M. B. Jayasundara of No. 238/1, Batakalegama, Karawdeniya Watta Mudduwa, Rathnapura.
- (3) Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri presented a petition dated 13.09.2023 from Mr. C. M. H. B. Gunathilaka of 'Sameera', Dunupathagama, Nochchiyagama.
- (4) Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 25.08.2023 from Mr. Y. P. Jayarathna of Thalapathgedara Watta, Wegiriya, Hondiyadeniya.

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

4. Mediation Board (Amendment) : The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,— Bill to amend the Mediation Board Act, No. 72 of 1988.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society.

5. Privileges (No.1) : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law, seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar, M.P. on 03rd October, 2023 in Parliament to the effect that his 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.

6. Privileges (No.2) : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law, seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law, M.P. on 06th October, 2023 in Parliament to the effect that his 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.

7. Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) 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.

Clause 1 to 22 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.

8. Anti-Corruption (Amendment) 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.

Clause 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Schedule

Question that the Schedule 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 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.

Suspension of Sittings

At 1.20 p.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 2.03 p.m.

At 2.03 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

9. Contempt of a Court, Tribunal or Institution 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.

(At 2.08 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.08 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.43 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned: debate to be resumed on future date.

10. Adjournment (Establishment of City Beautification Units in Local Government Authorities) : The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, November 09, 2023.