



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 75

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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. (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. 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. 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 Rajapakse, 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. 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. (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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Non Cabinet Minister of State Plantation Enterprises Reforms and State Minister of Finance
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

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. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
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. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
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. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera 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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
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. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
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. Samanpriya 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 that the Report of the Special Committee appointed by me regarding the alleged incident taken place among Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, State Minister, Hon. Rohana Bandara and Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera, Members of Parliament at the Parliament premises on 20th October 2023 was handed over to me on 14th November 2023 by the Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, the Deputy Speaker and the Chairman of the Committee. I also wish to inform this House that the report of the said Committee will be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker table the Annual Work Programme of the National Audit Office for the year 2024 in terms of Section 35(3) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 which was submitted to the Speaker by the Auditor-General in terms of Section 35(1) of the said Act.

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

(2) The Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Urban Development Authority for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Committees : (1) The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the Supplementary Estimate for Providing Allocations for Medical Supplies and Other Essential Commitments which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. D. Weerasingha, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security and Agriculture presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security and Agriculture on —

- (i) Annual Report of Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau- 2019;
- (ii) Annual Report of Central Engineering Services (Private) Limited- 2021;
- (iii) Annual Report of Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka- 2017; and
- (iv) Annual Report of Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka- 2020

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. D. Weerasingha, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security and Agriculture presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of Department of Agriculture -2022; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy- 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne presented a petition dated 02.08.2023 from Mr. M. A. Karunasena of Manoshila, Gonadeniya, Wekandawala.

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

5. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 2 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Privileges : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law, seconded by the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, M.P. on 14th November, 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. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda, seconded by the Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Yohan Pathirana Foundation.”

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Women and Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.

8. Appropriation Bill—(Second Allotted Day) : Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question (13th November 2023),—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question again proposed, and debate resumed.

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.53 a.m. the Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committee.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.12 p.m. the Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Higher Education moved,— That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.07 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Investment Promotion moved,— That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.26 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Livestock Development moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.39 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned: debate to be resumed on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

9. Supplementary Sum,— Head 240— Programme 02: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,—That this Parliament resolves that a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Twenty Billion (Rs. 20,000,000,000) shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, or any other fund or money of, or at the disposal of, the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or from the proceeds of any loans obtained by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the services of the financial year beginning of 01st January, 2023, and ending on 31st December, 2023, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the schedule hereto:—

SCHEDULE

Head 240	-	Department of National Budget		
Programme 02	-	Development Activities		
		Recurrent Expenditure	Rs.	20,000,000,000
		Total Expenditure	Rs.	<u>20,000,000,000</u>

(Cabinet approval signified.)

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 2 of 2023 presented on 10th November, 2023

Total of Supplementary Estimate No.1 Rs. 231,500,000,000

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment (Acceleration of Nilwala Ganga Development Project) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and, debated.

And it being 6.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 09th November, 2023.