



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 77.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, November 17, 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. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister
of Mass Media

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and
Aviation

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Non Cabinet Minister of State Plantation Enterprises
Reforms and State Minister of Finance

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. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
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. 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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
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. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
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. 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. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
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. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
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. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda 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. Asanka Navarathna
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. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
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. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha 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 announcements:—

I

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2), I have nominated the following Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya (Incorporation) (Amendment) Bill’:—

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. Arundika Fernando
Hon. Sanath Nishantha
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha.”

II

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, Member of Parliament has been nominated to serve in 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 in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 106 of the Parliament, to fill the vacancy occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. Waruna Liyanage, Member of Parliament from the Membership of the said Committee.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the institutions coming under the Department of Public Enterprises of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Rubber Development Department for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament : The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Report under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament on the Bill titled “Sathya Sri Ghanapathi Bhakthi Jana Sewa Foundation (Incorporation)” .

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Saturday, November 18, 2023.

4. Ministerial Consultative Committees (No.1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 112(1) of Parliament and the decision taken on the 16th of November, 2023 by the Committee of Selection, the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Plantation Industries be appointed instead of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture and the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries approved by the Parliament on the 10th of February 2023.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Ministerial Consultative Committees (No.2): The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 112(1) of the Parliament, in terms of the decision taken on the 16th of November, 2023 by the Committee of Selection and the motion agreed to by Parliament this day, the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Plantation Industries shall consist of the Cabinet Minister in charge of the relevant subject as Chair, State Minister, Deputy Minister and ten (10) other Members of Parliament to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Appropriation Bill—(Fourth 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.

(At 11.13 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.30 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister State Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.39 p.m. the Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Education moved,— That Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.43 p.m. the Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

And it being past 6.00 p.m. at 6.10 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Saturday, November 18, 2023.

5. Adjournment (Restitution of Ampara, Thottasurunki Paddy Land to Rightful Owners) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and, debated.

And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.38 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 Saturday, November 18, 2023 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 09th November, 2023.