



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 78.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Saturday, November 18, 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. 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. (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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
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. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply

Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment

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. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
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. Asanka Navarathna
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. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sudath Manjula
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. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
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. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
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. Announcement by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received the Determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill titled ‘National Hydrographic’ which was challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The determination of the Supreme Court in terms of Article 123 of the Constitution concludes as follows:—

Clause 15(2)(c), Clause 23(3), Clause 25 and Clause 43 of the Bill are inconsistent with Article 12(1) of the Constitution and could be validly passed only with the special majority provided for in Article 84(2) of the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court has stated that the said inconsistencies can be ceased if the said Clauses are amended as per the Determination of the Court.

Further the Supreme Court has arrived at the conclusion that the Bill as a whole, and the specific provisions excluding the provisions referred to in above paragraph, are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

In the circumstances, the Supreme Court is of the view that, upon the amendments suggested by the Supreme Court and the proposed Committee Stage amendments being effected, the Bill and its provisions will cease to be inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

I order that the Determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today's proceedings of the House."

II

"I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled 'Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment)', 'Anti-Corruption (Amendment)', 'Civil Procedure Code (Amendment)' and 'Local Authorities Elections (Amendment)' on 17th November 2023."

III

"In terms of Standing Order No. 113(2), I have nominated the following Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the 'Parliamentary Elections (Amendment)' Bill:-

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna"

IV

"In terms of Standing Order No. 113(2), I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for consideration of the Bill titled 'Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment)':-

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. D. Weerasingha"

2. Appropriation Bill—(Fifth 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 10.43 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.14 p.m. the Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, seconded by Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.37 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Water Supply moved,— That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.02 p.m. the Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Hon. Kapila Athukorala, seconded by Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.44 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

And it being 6.00 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Monday, November 20, 2023.

3. Adjournment (Expeditious Implementation of Budget Proposal No.43 on Empowerment of Women) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and, debated.

Question put, and agreed to; at 6.21 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Monday, November 20, 2023 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 09th November, 2023.