



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 79.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, November 20, 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 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. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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. (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 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. 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. 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. 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. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing

Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education

Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy

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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology

Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
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. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
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. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha 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. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
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. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

Hon. Nimal Lanza

Hon. Waruna Liyanage

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. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

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 announcement:—

“A motion may be moved to refer the question of privilege raised by the Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, M.P. in Parliament on 19th July 2023 to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2024 in terms of the Standing Order 121(5) (i) of Parliament (on the fiscal, financial and economic assumptions used as the basis in arriving at total estimated expenditure and revenue of the Budget) only in Sinhala and English languages with special leave of the House and stated that the Tamil language copy will be presented as soon as possible.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented a petition dated 10.09.2023 from Mr. E.M.R. Sarath Ekanayake of Akkara 100 Watta, Hawena Thenna, Panliyadda.

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

4. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That 22nd Wednesday, 23rd Thursday, 24th Friday, 25th Saturday, 27th Monday, 28th Tuesday, 29th Wednesday, 30th Thursday, November 2023 and 01st Friday, 02nd Saturday, 04th Monday, 05th Tuesday, 06th Wednesday, 07th Thursday, 08th Friday, 09th Saturday, 11th Monday, 12th Tuesday, 13th Wednesday, December 2023 be allotted days for the consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2024).

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Sittings of the Parliament (No.1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of sittings of Parliament on allotted days for consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2024) from 22nd Wednesday, 23rd Thursday, 25th Saturday, 27th Monday to 30th Thursday, November 2023 and 02nd Saturday, 04th Monday to 07th Thursday, 09th Saturday, 11th Monday and 12th Tuesday, December 2023 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 6.00 p.m. paragraph (5) and (6) of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No.2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of sittings of Parliament on allotted days for consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2024) on 24th Friday, November, 01st and 08th Fridays, December, 2023 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 6.00 p.m. paragraph (5) and (6) of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sittings of the Parliament (No.3): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of the sitting of Parliament on Wednesday, 13th December, 2023 allotted for consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2024) shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.. At 6.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Appropriation Bill—(Sixth 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 11.29 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Ports and Aviation moved,—That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.05 p.m. the Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.13 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Health moved,— That Hon. Gamini Waleboda took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.38 p.m. the Hon. Gamini Waleboda took the Chair.)

Hon. Samanpriya Herath, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.12 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

9. Adjournment (Enactment of Draft National Evaluation Bill) : 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 adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 09th November, 2023.