



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 83.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, November 24, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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. 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 Wijesekera, 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. 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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivaneshathurai 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. 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. 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. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Private Education

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. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing

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. 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. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

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. Gayantha Karunatileka

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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila

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. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
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. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. Marjan Faleel

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:—

“In terms of Standing Order of Parliament 113(2), I have nominated the following Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Dassana Bauddha Sanvidhanaya (Incorporation)’ Bill:-

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara

Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the First Installment – Parts XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII, XXXIV and XXXV, Fourth Installment – Parts IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV and XV, Fifth Installment – Parts VIII and IX and Sixth Installment – Parts IX, X, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV and XXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said, Reports do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries presented the Annual Report of the National Food Promotion Board for the year 2019 and moved that the this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Attorney General's Department for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put and agreed to.

(4) The Non Cabinet Minister of State Plantation Enterprises Reforms and State Minister of Finance presented Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya presented a petition dated 27.09.2023 from Mr. E. M. Jayawardena of No. 562, National House Road, Andamkulama, Trincomalee.

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

4. Appropriation Bill — (Tenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 119

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.29 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 12.53 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 4.32 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Question that the sum of Rs. 625,000,000 for Head 119, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 19,000,000 for Head 119, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 285,000,000 for Head 119, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 42,054,000,000 for Head 119, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Whereupon the Minister of Education proposed that the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Saturday, November 25, 2023.

5. Annual Report of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (2021): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 06.06.2023 under Section 32(3) of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Act, No. 28 of 1961, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Annual Report of the Ceylon Electricity Board (2021) : The Minister of the Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Electricity Board for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 25.04.2023 under Section 14(3) of the Financial Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sahana Community Development Foundation (Incorporation) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Presiding Member to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

8. Samadhi Meditation and Yoga Centre (Incorporation) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Presiding Member to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

9. Ruhunu Awakening Organization (Incorporation) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Presiding Member to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

10. “Matara Season” Organization (Incorporation) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Presiding Member to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

11. Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Presiding Member to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

12. Adjournment (New Law to Forfeit Illegal Assets Earned through Drug Peddling and Crimes) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 6.28 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, November 25, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 20th November, 2023.