



*(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)*

No. 85.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, November 27, 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

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**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. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe**, 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. 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. (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. 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. 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. 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 Piriven 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. 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. Shehan Semasinghe**, State Minister of Finance

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

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

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**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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**  
**Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**  
**Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**  
**Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma**  
**Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage**  
**Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda**  
**Hon. Akila Ellawala**  
**Hon. Lalith Ellawala**  
**Hon. Govindan Karunakaram**  
**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. Udayakantha Gunathilaka**  
**Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena**  
**Hon. S. M. Chandrasena**  
**Hon. Milan Jayathilake**  
**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. S. B. Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha**  
**Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya**  
**Hon. Isuru Dodangoda**  
**Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda**  
**Hon. Asanka Navarathna**  
**Hon. Kins Nelson**  
**Hon. S. Noharathalingam**  
**Hon. Nimal Piyathissa**  
**Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris**  
**Hon. Dilan Perera**  
**Hon. Niroshan Perera**  
**Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera**  
**Hon. Johnston Fernando**  
**Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**  
**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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero**  
**Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara**

**Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka**  
**Hon. C. B. Rathnayake**  
**Hon. Ishak Rahuman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe**  
**Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. M. Rameshwaran**  
**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. 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. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera**  
**Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi**  
**Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama**  
**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. H. M. M. Harees**  
**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. Presentation of Reports from Committees :** (1) Hon. Harin Fernando, The Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism and Lands presented the Report of the Committee on the Order made by the Minister of Tourism and Lands under Section 26(1) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005 on the recommendation of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority with regard to the declaration of tourist development areas and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2342/26 of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 which was referred to the Committee.

which were referred to the Committee.

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

**2. Presentation of Public Petitions :**

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake presented a petition dated 10.07.2023 from Mr. M. A. Berty Gunawardana of No 262, Napawala, Getaheththa.

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

**3. Appropriation Bill — (Twelfth Allotted Day) :** Considered further in the Committee.

*(In the Committee)*

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 160

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.49 a.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 2.03 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 3.14 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Primary Industries moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama Perera do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.56 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

Hon. Rohana Bandara, seconded by Hon. Gamini Waleboda moved,—That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.55 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena, seconded by Hon. Kapila Athukorala moved,—That Hon. Gamini Waleboda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.21 p.m. Hon. Gamini Waleboda took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Question that the sum of Rs. 725,000,000 for Head 160, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 119,000,000 for Head 160, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 804,000,000 for Head 160, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 482,000,000 for Head 160, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 161

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 332,000,000 for Head 161, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,000,000 for Head 161, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

## Head 283

## Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,962,000,000 for Head 283, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

## Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 703,000,000 for Head 283, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

## Head 284

## Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,638,000,000 for Head 284, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

## Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 292,000,000 for Head 284, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

## Head 294

## Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 646,000,000 for Head 294, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

## Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 130,000,000 for Head 294, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

**4. Annual Report of the State Timber Corporation (2021) :** The Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation moved,— That the Annual Report of the State Timber Corporation for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 05.07.2023 under Section 2 of the State Industrial Corporation Act, No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.



**5. Adjournment (Introduction of Sociology to G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Curriculum):** The Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya, seconded by Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka moved,—That Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.55 p.m. Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; at 6.26 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20<sup>th</sup> November , 2023