



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 87.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, November 29, 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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

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. 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 and Minister of Sports and
Youth Affairs

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. (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 and Minister of Irrigation

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. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion
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. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, State Minister of Tourism
Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
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. 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 Piriven Education
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. 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. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy

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. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
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. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban

Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
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. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
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. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. Marjan Faleel

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

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 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 124(6) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Defence in the report of the Committee on Ways and Means which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties;
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2347/06 of 29th August 2023)
- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2343/11 of 01st August 2023;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2345/64 of 17th August 2023;
- (iii) Order made by the Acting Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2346/16 of 21st August 2023;

- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2348/44 of 08th September 2023; and
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2353/77 of 14th October 2023.

and moved that those Resolution and the Orders be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Nimal Piyathissa, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security presented the Report of the Committee on Annual Performance Report of the Department of Police for the year 2022 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport on Performance Report of the Department of Motor Traffic for the Year 2022 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. Lalith Ellawala presented a petition dated 15.09.2023 from Mr. V.W.L. Deepal Fernando of No. 25/B/1, Kumarathunga Munidasa Mawatha, Gorakapola, Panadura.

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

4. Powers of Attorney (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,— Bill to amend the Powers of Attorney Ordinance (Chapter 122).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and a Law-Abiding Society.

5. Appropriation Bill — (Fourteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

Speaker took the Chair.

Head 117

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. S. M. Marikkar proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.57 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.24 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Hon. Isuru Dodangoda, seconded by Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha moved,—That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.19 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

(At 4.49 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 5.57 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Transport and Highways

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 17 in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 368,345,000,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Question that the sum of Rs. 785,000,000 for Head 117, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 28,000,000 for Head 117, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 21 in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 15,050,000,000 339,878,000,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 306

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 29,932,000,000 for Head 306, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 27,068,000,000 for Head 306, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 307

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,072,000,000 for Head 307, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,371,000,000 for Head 307, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 in page 20 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 51,060,000,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 123

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 907,000,000 for Head 123, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 46,000,000 for Head 123, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 11 in page 20 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 889,300,000 50,552,000,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 291

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 358,300,000 for Head 291, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 321,000,000 for Head 291, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 309

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 157,400,000 for Head 309, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 5,700,000 for Head 309, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 411,000,000 for Head 309, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 15,000,000 for Head 309, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 310

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 167,000,000 for Head 310, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 83,300,000 for Head 310, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 311

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 200,000,000 for Head 311, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 37,000,000 for Head 311, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.36 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Thursday, November 30, 2023.

6. Adjournment (Rules, Regulations and Provisions for Planned Urban Development): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated

And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.55 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 Thursday November 30, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th, November 2023.