



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 88.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, November 30, 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. 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. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Industries and Minister of Health

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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
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. (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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

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. 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. 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. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
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. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake

Hon. S. B. 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. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
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. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
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. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
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. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
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. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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 Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2024 in terms of Standing Order No. 121(5) (ii) of the Parliament including whether the allocation of money is in compliance with the policies of the Government only in English language with the special leave of the House and informed that the Sinhala and Tamil language copies will be presented as soon as possible.

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

(2) Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage & New Citizen presented the Report of the said Committee on —

(i) Annual Report of the Galle Heritage Foundation for the year 2020; and

(ii) Performance Report of the Department of Cultural Affairs for the year 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

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

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana presented a petition dated 02.08.2023 from Mr. H. K. A. Susantha Kumarasingha of No. 410/C, Hiyare East, Kandurugashena.

(2) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —

(i) a petition dated 18.09.2023 from Mr. H. K. A. Lasantha of 'Madushani', Kadduwa, Karagoda, Uyangoda;

(ii) a petition dated 21.08.2023 from Mrs. H. T. Kanthi of Ukwatta, Godahewagewaththa, Kekanadura, Matara; and

(iii) a petition dated 22.08.2023 from Mrs. K. A. Dilakshi Niluka of 'Sandagiri', Batuwita, Thihagoda.

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

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 111

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.53 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 11.16 a.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

(At 1.40 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 2.46 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

(At 4.10 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

(At 5.16 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Health

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 60,500,000,000,”

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.

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 140,239,998,000 for Head 111, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 22,675,000,000 for Head 111, 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 7 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 207,845, 000,000 37,125,000,000”

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 220

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 145,000,000 for Head 220, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 15,000,000 for Head 220, 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 10 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 2,060,000,000 685,000,000”

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.

At 6.00 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Friday, December 01, 2023.

4. Annual Report of the 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation (2022) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Industries and Minister of Health moved,— That the Annual Report of the 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation for the year 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 08.09.2023 under Section 19(4) of the 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation Act, No. 18 of 2018, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Annual Report of the Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital (2021) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Industries and Minister of Health moved,— That the Annual Report of the Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 04.04.2023 Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital Act, No. 38 of 1999, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment (Stringent Rules to Curb Social Media Scams) : 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 6.34 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, December 01, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th November, 2023