



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 89.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, December 01, 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. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

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

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. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms

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. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Sivanesathurai 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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Fisheries
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. 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. 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. 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. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
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. Duminda 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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith 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. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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 Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs Provincial Councils and Local Government presented the Supplementary Estimate No. 03 of 2023 and moved that the Supplementary Estimate be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agree to.

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

- (i) Annual Reports of the Regional Development Bank for the years 2018 and 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Savings Bank for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute 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.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Chair of the committee on Ethics and Privileges presented the First Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges appointed for the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament on the Alleged Incident Taken Place between Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, M.P., Hon. Rohana Bandara, M.P., and Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera, M.P., on 20th October 2023 in the Parliament Premises.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe presented a petition dated 19.09.2023 from Mr. M. Haripriya Rohana of No. 139/2, Beruwewela, Hakmana.

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

4. Privileges (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— The matters referred to the Hon. Speaker by the Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, M.P. and twenty-three other Members of Parliament, by the letter dated 13th November, 2023, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges as per the order given by the Hon. Speaker on 14th November, 2023 in Parliament and in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Privileges (No.2) : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva moved,— The matters referred to the Hon. Speaker by the Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, M.P. and twenty-six other Members of Parliament, by the letter dated 14th November, 2023, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges as per the order given by the Hon. Speaker on 14th November, 2023 in Parliament and in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Privileges (No.3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— The matters referred to the Hon. Speaker by Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary General, by the letter dated 13th November, 2023, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges as per the order given by the Hon. Speaker on 14th November, 2023 in Parliament and in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Appropriation Bill — (Sixteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Head 149

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 1.11 p.m. the Deputy Chair of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 2.15 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

(At 4.52 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

(At 5.55 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Industries

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 5 in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 5,994,300,000”

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. 547,700,000 for Head 149, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 71,800,000 for Head 149, 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 9 in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 2,467,900,000 5,843,600,000”

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 297

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 78,400,000 for Head 297, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 303

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 320,800,000 for Head 303, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 78,900,000 for Head 303, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 20 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 767,700,000”

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 116

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 661,000,000 for Head 116, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of 121,600,000 for Head 116, 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 4 in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 655,000,000 304,000,000”

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 298

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 189,500,000 for Head 298, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 299

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 64,700,000 for Head 299, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 300

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 119,500,000 for Head 300, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 314,500,000 for Head 300, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 301

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 88,000,000 for Head 301, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 26,500,000 for Head 301, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 302

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 23,600,000 for Head 302, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,100,000 for Head 302, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.08 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Saturday, December 02, 2023.

8. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 6.08 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, December 02, 2023 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th November , 2023