



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 90.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Saturday, December 02, 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. 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. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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. 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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
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. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris

Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
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 Maharoo
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
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. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘South Lanka Academy for Tertiary Education and Leadership (Incorporation)’ Bill:—

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Ashok Abeyasinghe
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission under Section 71 read with Section 52(5) of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2355/30 of 25th October 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.10.2023 to 31.10.2023 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 43 of 2022.

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

(3) The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security presented the Annual Performance Report of the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. D. B. Herath presented a petition dated 16.09.2023 from Mrs. T.M Dingirimanika of Wasiwewa, Balalla, Mahawa.

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

4. Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament resolves that according to the recommendations of the report presented to the Parliament on 01st December 2023 by the Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Chair of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, on the alleged incident taken place between Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage M.P., Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera M.P. and Hon. Rohana Bandara M.P. on 20th October 2023 in the Parliamentary premises, the Parliamentary service of Hon.(Mrs.) Diana Gamage M.P., Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera M.P. and Hon. Rohana Bandara M.P. be suspended for a period of one month with effect from 02nd December 2023 (today).

Question that the motion be agreed to, put, and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 57; Noes: 01 ; Abstain 03

The following Sixty (60) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 001. Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi	Yes
G 002. Nimal Siripala De Silva	Yes
G 003. Chamal Rajapaksa	Yes
G 004. Mahinda Rajapaksa	Yes
G 005. Prasanna Ranatunga	Yes
G 006. Susil Premajayantha	Yes
G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	Yes
G 010. Bandula Gunawardana	Yes
G 014. Harin Fernando	Yes
G 017. Vidura Wickramanayaka	Abstain
G 019. Manusha Nanayakkara	Yes
G 020. Tiran Alles	Yes
G 021. Ajith Rajapakse	Yes
G 022. Nalin Fernando	Yes
G 028. Janaka Wakkumbura	Yes
G 030. Kanaka Herath	Yes
G 031. Thenuka Vidanagamage	Yes
G 032. Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon	Yes
G 034. Rohana Dissanayaka	Yes
G 037. Vijitha Berugoda	Yes
G 040. Tharaka Balasuriya	Yes
G 041. Indika Anuruddha Herath	Yes
G 043. Anuradha Jayaratne	Yes
G 045. D.V. Chanaka	Yes
G 047. Piyal Nishantha De Silva	Yes
G 049. D. B. Herath	Yes
G 052. Shantha Bandara	Yes
G 054. Asoka Priyantha	Yes
G 059. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan	Yes
G 061. Anupa Pasqual	Yes
G 064. Gamini Lokuge	Yes
G 065. Vajira Abeywardena	Yes
G 067. C. B. Rathnayake	Yes
G 069. Mahindananda Aluthgamage	Yes
G 071. Namal Rajapaksa	Yes
G 072. Sarath Weerasekara	Yes
G 076. Kapila Athukorala	Yes
G 079. Jayantha Ketagoda	Yes
G 081. Thisakutti Arachchi	Yes
G 083. Pradeep Undugoda	Yes
G 084. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	Yes
G 085. Akila Ellawala	Yes

G 087. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku	Yes
G 089. Udayakantha Gunathilaka	Yes
G 091. Milan Jayathilake	Yes
G 093. Sudarshana Denipitiya	Yes
G 095. Premanath C. Dolawatte	Not Voted
G 097. Muditha Prishanthi	Yes
G 098. Sudath Manjula	Yes
G 099. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal	Abstain
G 102. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha	Yes
G 106. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana	Yes
G 108. D. Weerasingha	Yes
G 111. Yadamini Gunawardena	Yes
G 112. Manjula Dissanayake	Yes
G 114. Jayantha Weerasinghe	Yes
G 115. Marjan Faleel	Yes
G 116. Lalith Varna Kumara	Yes
O 078. M. A. Sumanthiran	No
O 089. Nimal Lanza	Yes
O 101. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	Yes

The following Member of Parliament cast his vote having being asked the names by the Secretary-General under the Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Parliament as follows:—

A. H. M. Fowzie

Abstain

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 110

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.44 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 12.36 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

(At 2.23 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

(At 3.24 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 6.15 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 in page 15 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent 31,049,000,000”

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.

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 15 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 01 Development Activities 4,938,700,000 7,472,200,000”

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 228**Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)**

Question that the sum of Rs. 9,305,200,000 for Head 228, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,818,000,000 for Head 228, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 229**Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)**

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,787,000,000 for Head 229, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 42,000,000 for Head 229, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 230**Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)**

Question that the sum of Rs. 161,400,000 for Head 230, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 5,000,000 for Head 230, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 231

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 76,800,000 for Head 231, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,100,000 for Head 231, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 232

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 12,957,500,000 for Head 232, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,285,000,000 for Head 232, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 233

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 847,500,000 for Head 233, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 545,000,000 for Head 233, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 234

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 374,200,000 for Head 234, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,400,000 for Head 234, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 235

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 24,700,000 for Head 235, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,300,000 for Head 235, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 326

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 576,000,000 for Head 326, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 21,000,000 for Head 326, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.34 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Monday, December 04, 2023.

6. Annual Report of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka (2021) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Annual Report of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 20.06.2023 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment (Grant of Balance Salary Increase Recommended by Subodhini Salary Commission) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was at 7.03 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 Monday, December 04, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th November, 2023.