



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 91.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, December 04, 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. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

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. 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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
Affairs

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

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. 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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanessathurai 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. 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 Private Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
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

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
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. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula 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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith 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. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
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. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
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. Abdul Haleem
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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“A motion may be moved to refer the question of privilege raised by the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, M.P. in Parliament on 06th October 2023 to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Harin Fernando, the Chair of the Ministerial Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2281/37 of 27th May 2022 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2296/19 of 08th September 2022;
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2304/88 of 05th November 2022;
- (iii) Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/26 of 14th December 2022; and
- (iv) Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Sections 18 and 19 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/27 of 14th December 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

Ordered that, the said Report do lie up on the **Table**.

3. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Velu Kumar, seconded by Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Malaiyagha Student Higher Education Fund.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Education for report.

4. Appropriation Bill — (Eighteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 171

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.48 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.13 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

(At 3.34 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 5.52 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,368,000,000 for Head 171, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 104,000,000 for Head 171, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 13,976,000,000 for Head 171, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,384,000,000 for Head 171, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 216

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 103,000,000 for Head 216, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,000,000 for Head 216, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,176,000,000 for Head 216, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 110,000,000 for Head 216, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 217

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 48,000,000 for Head 217, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,000,000 for Head 217, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 345,000,000 for Head 217, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 58,000,000 for Head 217, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 331

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 505,000,000 for Head 331, 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 331, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 55,280,000,000 for Head 331, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 62,000,000 for Head 331, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs

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 33 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 5,500,000,000”

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.

Head 194

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,205,000,000 for Head 194, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 413,000,000 for Head 194, 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 13 in page 33 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 3,695,000,000 4,087,000,000”

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 219

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 150,000,000 for Head 219, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 20,000,000 for Head 219, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,450,000,000 for Head 219, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 980,000,000 for Head 219, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.44 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Tuesday, December 05, 2023.

5. Regulations under the Sports Law (No.1) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 revoking the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2281/37 of 27th May 2022 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2296/19 of 08th September 2022, which were presented on 20.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Sports Law (No.2) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2304/88 of 05th November 2022, which were presented on 20.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Sports Law (No.3) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/26 of 14th December 2022, which were presented on 20.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Sports Law (No.4) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Sections 18 and 19 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/27 of 14th December 2022, which were presented on 20.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Gal Oya farmers affected by dispossession of lands): 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 7.18 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 Tuesday, December 05, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th November, 2023.