



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 92.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, December 05, 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. 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. (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. 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. 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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

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. 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 Piriven Education

Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy

Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries

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. 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. (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. 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. 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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
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. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
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. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
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. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan

Hon. M. Rameshwaran

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

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. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law

Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC

Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

I

“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 ‘Sahana Community Development Foundation (Incorporation) Bill’:-

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama”

II

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 'Re-Awakening East Organization (Incorporation) Bill':-

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. S.M.M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. D. Weerasingha"

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Industries and the Minister of Health presented the Annual Report of the National Enterprise Development Authority for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department 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.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented a petition dated 17.08.2023 from Mr. Ajith Sudusingha of 'Saman Renu', Mapalana, Kamburupitiya.

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

4. Sitzings of the Parliament (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the Parliament shall sit on Sunday 10th December 2023.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Sitzings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on 10th Sunday, December, 2023, shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.. At 4.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Privileges : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. Rauff Hakeem moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, M.P. on 06th October, 2023 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan, seconded by Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Vanni Mann Charity Foundation.”

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.

8. Appropriation Bill — (Nineteenth Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 126

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

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

(At 11.17 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.03 p.m. Imran Maharroof took the Chair.)

(At 3.26 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 5.07 p.m. Hon. Gamini Waleboda took the Chair.)

(At 5.45 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Education

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 and in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 58,040,000,000

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. 40,855,000,000 for Head 126, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,095,000,000 for Head 126, 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 21 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 63,560,000,000 47,045,000,000”

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 212

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 11,180,000,000 for Head 212, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 140,000,000 for Head 212, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 213

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 110,000,000 for Head 213, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 60,000,000 for Head 213, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 214

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 63,500,000,000 for Head 214, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 7,500,000,000 for Head 214, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 215

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 310,000,000 for Head 215, 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 215, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,215,000,000 for Head 215, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 175,000,000 for Head 215, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 335

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 70,000,000 for Head 335, 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 335, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.51 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Wednesday, December 06, 2023.

9. Adjournment (Continuous enforcement of Prevention of Terrorism Act) :

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 7.43 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 Wednesday, December 06, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th November, 2023.