



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 94.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, December 07, 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. (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. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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 Rajapakse, 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. 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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
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. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
Hon. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply
Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
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. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
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. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
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. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
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. 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. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan

Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
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. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
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 Speaker presented the First Installment – Parts XXXVI and XXXVII and Fourth Installment – Parts XVI, XVII and XVIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Second Installment – Part LIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
 - (ii) Second Installment – Part XLVI and Ninth Installment – Part XXXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021; and
 - (iii) Second Installment – Parts XXXIII and XXXIV, Third Installment – Part XVI and Ninth Installment – Part XVIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022
- in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 and Section 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Drama, Cinema and Television of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2326/10 of 03rd April 2023.

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

2. Presentation of Committee Reports : (1) Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the Second Report of the Committee on Public Accounts for the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka for the year 2022;
 - (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Educational Publication Department for the year 2022; and
 - (iii) Annual Report of the National Educational Commission for the year 2022
- which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna presented a petition dated 04.07.2023 from Mrs. K. M. Katulanda of No. 145/A, Kandy Road, Kadawatha.

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

4. Notaries (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,—Bill to amend the Notaries Ordinance (Chapter 107).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, December 21, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-abiding Society.

5. Prevention of Frauds (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,—Bill to amend the Prevention of Frauds Ordinance (Chapter 70).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, December 21, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-abiding Society.

6. Appropriation Bill — (Twenty First Allotted Day) : Considered further in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 112

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Niroschan Perera proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.39 a.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 1.33 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 4.18 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair)

(At 5.27 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Question that the sum of Rs. 111,700,000 for Head 112, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 8,000,000 for Head 112, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 18,762,325,000 for Head 112, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 730,000,000 for Head 112, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 193

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,539,000,000 for Head 193, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 321,000,000 for Head 193, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 150,000,000 for Head 193, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,000,000 for Head 193, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 221

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,817,000,000 for Head 221, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 652,000,000 for Head 221, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,074,000,000 for Head 221, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 744,000,000 for Head 221, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 328

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 573,000,000 for Head 328, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 8,000,000 for Head 328, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 16,000,000 for Head 328, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.36 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Friday, December 08, 2023.

7. Adjournment (Revocation of VAT Imposed on “Posha” Food): 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 7.09 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 08, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th November, 2023.