



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 96.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Saturday, December 09, 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. 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. Kanchana Wijsekera, 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. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Sivanethurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture

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. 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. 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. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
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. K. P. S. Kumarasiri

Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
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. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
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. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
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. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
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.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
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. Wimal Weerawansa
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. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
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 presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 24 of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka Law, No. 4 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2334/39 of 01st June 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Committee Reports : Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Plantation Industries presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Plantation Industries under Sections 13(1)(a) and 13(1)(b) of the Sri Lanka Tea Board law, No. 14 of 1975, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2339/07 of 04th July 2023; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Agriculture under Section 26 read with Section 20 of the Control of Pesticides Act, No. 33 of 1980 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2345/74 of 18th August 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—
That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, December 10th, 2023.

Question put and, agreed to.

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 118

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. R.M.Ranjith Madduma Bandara proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.36 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 12.02 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 1.37 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.17 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

(At 4.04 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 5.48 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Agriculture

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 3 to 5 in page 18 and substitute the following:—

“Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

Recurrent	66,039,250,000
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Capital	46,522,030,000”
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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 lines 7 to 9 in page 18 and substitute the following:—

“ Head 118– Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

Programme 01 Operational Activities	3,504,400,000	478,000,000
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Programme 02 Development Activities	44,885,400,000	37,234,670,000”
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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 281

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 662,550,000 for Head 281, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 73,860,000 for Head 281, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 8,917,790,000 for Head 281, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,781,500,000 for Head 281, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 285

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 625,800,000 for Head 285, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 49,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 5,132,160,000 for Head 285, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,186,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 292

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 841,150,000 for Head 292, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 73,000,000 for Head 292, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 586,000,000 for Head 292, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Plantation Industries

Head 135

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 10 to 20 in page 26 and lines 1 and 2 in page 27.

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.

Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 15 in page 18:—

“Head 289— Department of Export Agriculture

Programme	02	Development Activities	933,000,000	517,000,000”
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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 insert the following immediately after line 18 in page 18:—

“Head 293— Department of Rubber Development

Programme	02	Development Activities	412,000,000	528,000,000”
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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 insert the following immediately after the details of the newly inserted Expenditure Head 293—Department of Rubber Development in to the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation:—

“Head 337— Department of Cinnamon Industry Development

Programme	02	Development Activities	125,000,000	15,000,000”
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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.

Non Cabinet Ministry of State Plantation Enterprises Reforms

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after the line 10 in page 34 :—

“ Non-Cabinet Ministry of State Plantation Enterprises Reforms

Recurrent 138,000,000

Capital 24,000,000”

“Head 501– Non Cabinet Minister of State Plantation Enterprises Reforms

Programme 01 Operational Activities 138,000,000 24,000,000”

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 another amendment to leave out line 11 in page 34 and substitute the following:—

“Total 2,596,422,273,000 1,714,424,515,000”

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.

At 6.59 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Monday, December 11, 2023.

5. Order under the Sri Lanka Tea Board Law : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Plantation Industries under Sections 13(1)(a) and 13(1)(b) of the Sri Lanka Tea Board law, No. 14 of 1975, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2339/07 of 04th July 2023, which was presented on 07.11.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Control of Pesticides Act : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Agriculture under Section 26 read with Section 20 of the Control of Pesticides Act, No. 33 of 1980 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2345/74 of 18th August 2023, which were presented on 09.11.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report of the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka (2021) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Rubber Research Institute 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 24.05.2023 under Section 8 of the Rubber Research Ordinance, No. 10 of 1930 (Year last Amendment 2003), be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Annual Report of the Coconut Cultivation Board (2020) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Coconut Cultivation Board for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 21.06.2023 under Section 2 of the Coconut Development Act, No. 46 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Annual Report of the Coconut Research Institute (2020) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Coconut Research Institute for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 10.02.2023 under Section 44 of the Coconut Development Act, No. 46 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Annual Report of the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka - Talawakelle (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka - Talawakelle for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 22.02.2023 under Section 16 of the Tea Research Board Act, No. 52 of 1993, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Annual Report of the Coconut Development Authority (2020) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Coconut Development Authority for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 08.03.2023 under Section 24 of part III of the Coconut Development Act, No. 46 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority (2021) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 23.03.2023 of the Tea Small Holdings Development Act, No. 35 of 1975, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was at 7.00 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 Sunday, December 10, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th November, 2023.