



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 97.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Sunday, December 10, 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. (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. 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. 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. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivanethurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence

Hon. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply

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. 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. 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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

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. Gevindu Cumaratunga

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila

Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek

Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law

Hon. S. Noharathalingam

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris

Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

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 announcements:—

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 ‘Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill’:-

Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Samanpriya Herath”

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 ‘Ruhunu Awakening Organization (Incorporation) Bill’:-

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka”

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the—

- (i) Resolution for Determination of the Remunerations of the Chairman, Members and Director General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption;
- (ii) Finance Bill; and
- (iii) Supplementary Estimate for the Settlement of Outstanding Bills on the Subject of Diets and Uniform Expenditure

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 3 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. 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 Monday, December 11th, 2023.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.06 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

And notice being directed that a Quorum was not present, Parliament was counted and a Quorum not being present, Parliament was at 12.05 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker, in terms of the Standing Order 11 of Parliament.

debate to be resumed another date.

6. Finance Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on Behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

And notice being directed that a Quorum was not present, Parliament was counted and a Quorum not being present, Parliament was at 12.05 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker, in terms of the Standing Order 11 of Parliament.

debate to be resumed another date.

7. Supplementary Sum,— Head 222— Programme 01— † : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Sixteen Billion Five Hundred Million (Rs. 16,500,000,000) shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, or any other fund or money of, or at the disposal of, the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or from the proceeds of any loans obtained by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the services of the financial year beginning of 01st January, 2023, and ending on 31st December, 2023, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the schedule hereto:—

SCHEDULE

Head 222	-	Sri Lanka Army		
Programme 01	-	Operational Activities		
		Recurrent Expenditure	Rs.	16,500,000,000
		Total Expenditure	Rs.	<u>16,500,000,000</u>

(Cabinet approval signified.)

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 3 of 2023 presented on 01st December, 2023

Total of Supplementary Estimate No.1 and 2 Rs. 251,500,000,000

And notice being directed that a Quorum was not present, Parliament was counted and a Quorum not being present, Parliament was at 12.05 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker, in terms of the Standing Orders 11 of Parliament

debate to be resumed another date.

8. Adjournment : And notice being directed that a Quorum was not present, Parliament was counted and a Quorum not being present, Parliament was at 12.05 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put, in terms of the Standing Order 11 of Parliament until 9.30 a.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023,