



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 99.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, December 12, 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. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation

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. (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. 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. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Health
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. Piya 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. 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. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. 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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
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. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

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. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

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. Velu Kumar

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda

Hon. Mano Ganesan

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila

Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
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. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera 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. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC

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. 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. Kabir Hashim

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. Presentation of Papers : The Minister of Education presented present the Annual Report of the Ranaviru Seva Authority for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Committee Reports : (1) Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna , chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the Fourth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts for the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament prepared based on the inquiries of the said Committee on Examination of the Unauthorized Working Losses of the Department of Government Factory for the Financial Year 2022.

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

(2) Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law, the chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Prison Department for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Law Commission for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law, the chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Prisoners Welfare Fund of the Department of Prisons for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Sudath Manjula, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department Inland Revenue for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Excise Department for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Customs for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(5) Hon. Sudath Manjula, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Census and Statistics for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Disaster Management Centre for the year 2021

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(6) Hon. Sudath Manjula, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report & Accounts of the Ministry of Tourism and Land for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau for the year 2020;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report for the Ministry of Industries for the year 2022;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited for the year 2019 /2020;
- (v) Annual Report of the Lanka Phosphate Ltd for the year 2021/ 2022;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparels for the year 2020; and
- (vii) Performance Report of the Department of Registrar of Companies for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(7) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development presented the Report of the said Committee on “Local Pinus Timber Promotion”.

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

(8) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods and Services presented the Report of the Committee on “the quality of goods and services advertised in Sri Lanka through the internet and social media and the impact on individuals and organizations”.

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

(9) Hon. Hector Appuhamy, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Foreign Employment and Labour presented the Report of the said Committee on —

(i) Annual Report of the Shrama Vasana Fund for the year 2022; and

(ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Labour 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. Imran Maharroof presented a petition dated 16.09.2023 from Mrs. Abdul Wahab Kanniyumma of Peoples Bank Road, Kinniya 06.

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

4. Select Committee of Parliament to look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short term, medium term and long term measures to be taken in that regard, as well as to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short term, medium term and long term measures to be taken in that regard, as well as to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 05th October 2023 be extended up to 05th March 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put and, agreed to.

5. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda, seconded by Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Pragnabandu Scholarship Trust 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.

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 187

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon.Eran Wickramaratne proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.22 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.05 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

(At 2.08 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 2.50 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 3.06 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair)

(At 3.32 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair)

(At 4.07 p.m. Hon. Velu Kuma took the Chair)

(At 5.31 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negative.

Ministry of Investment Promotion

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 and 7 in page 31 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent	1,186,170,000
Capital	2,531,500,000”

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. 464,170,000 for Head 187, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 33,500,000 for Head 187, 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 11 in page 31 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities	722,000,000	2,498,000,000”
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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.

Ministry of Technology

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 18 in page 30 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 5,356,400,000”

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 186

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 201,400,000 for Head 186, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 16,400,000 for Head 186, 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 16 in page 31 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 2,869,000,000 5,340,000,000”

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.

At 6. 38 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

7. Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute (2019) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Investment Promotion moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 19 of the Sugarcane Research Institute Act, No. 75 of 1981, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Special Exam of Law College for LLB Graduates of Foreign Universities): 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 6.38 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 13, 2023, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 20th November, 2023.