



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 101.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, January 09, 2024 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. 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. (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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Environment

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. 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. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe, State Minister of Women and
Child Affairs

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, State Minister of Tourism

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

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. 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. 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. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education

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

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. 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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
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. 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. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera

Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
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. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
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. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
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. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. H. M. M. Harees

Hon. Abdul Haleem

Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Vijitha 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. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/4/5/1

December 21st, 2023

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,

Ranil Wickremesinghe
President

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled ‘Value Added Tax (Amendment)’, ‘Finance’ and ‘Appropriation’ on 13th December 2023.”

II

“Where a charge-sheet issued by the Committee on Ethics and Privileges of Parliament against a Member of Parliament contains more than one charge for two or more separate offences, and the said Member of Parliament is found guilty of more than one of the charges set out in the charge-sheet, the opinion of the Hon. Attorney General was sought regarding the maximum punishment that can be imposed in terms of Section 28 of the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act No. 21 of 1953 which was amended time to time and accordingly, the Hon. Attorney General has elucidated his opinion in that regard to the effect that it is punishable as per the provisions of Sections 5 and 16(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15 of 1979 subject to Article 66 (f) of the Constitution in consideration of the Articles 66 (f) and 67 of the Constitution, Sections 22 (3), 27 (1) and 32 of the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act No. 21 of 1953 which was amended time to time and Standing Orders 77 (1) , 77 (2) and 77 (3) of the Parliament and Sections 5 and 16 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15 of 1979.

Accordingly, it observed that the service of Parliament of a Member of Parliament can be suspended for a period exceeding one month under section 28 of the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act subject to a maximum of three months under Article 66 (e) of the Constitution where a member has been convicted of two or more separate offences in the charge-sheet for a single incident.”

III

“I wish to inform this House that approval has been granted at the meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Business held on December 12th 2023, for the establishment of the following two Parliamentary Caucuses:-

- Establishment of a ‘Caucus of Medical Parliamentarians Sri Lanka’, on the request made by the Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana and other 09 Members of Parliament; and
- Establishment of a ‘Climate Parliament of Sri Lanka’, on the request made by the Hon. Eran Wickramaratne and other 21 Members of Parliament.”

3. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the Second Installment – Part XXXVI and Ninth Installment – Part XIX 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.

(1) The Speaker presented—

- (i) Tenth Installment – Part VI of the Report of the Auditor-General of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Importation of Nano Nitrogen Liquid Fertilizer ; and
- (ii) Tenth Installment – Part VII of the Report of the Auditor-General of the Special Report of the Auditor-General on the Procurement of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by Litro Gas Lanka Limited (LGLL) for the year 2022/2023

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Language Education and Training for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Official Languages Commission for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and National Unity.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Mortgage and Investment Bank for the year 2021;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2021;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd for the year 2022;
- (v) Annual Report of the Development Lotteries Board for the year 2022; and
- (vi) Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2022

and moved that, those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2356/20 of 01st November 2023 and moved that the Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.11.2023 to 19.12.2023 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 43 of 2022; and
- (ii) Proclamation made and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2365/29 of 03rd January 2024 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the president in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979.

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

(8) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department of Government Factory 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.

(10) The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lankan Airlines Limited for the year 2021/2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Selacine Television Institution for the year 2021 and moved the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Road Development Authority for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Transport Commission for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(13) The Minister of Environment presented the Annual Report of the GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(14) The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries present the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tea Board for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(15) The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries present the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Agriculture in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Account.

Question put, and agreed to.

(16) The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Office of the Reparations for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

(17) The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the —

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice with the concurrence of the Chief Justice under Section 60 read with Section 61 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2238/34 of 30th July 2021; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms with the concurrence of the Chief Justice under Section 60 read with Section 61 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2303/23 of 26th October 2022.

And moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

Question put, and agreed to.

(18) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Reports of the Hindu Cultural Fund for the years 2020 and 2021 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(19) The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security presented the Performance Report of the Department of Co-operative Development for the year 2022 and moved the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Presentation of Committee Reports:(1) 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 Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of the Legal Draftsman's Department for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Community Based Corrections for the year 2022;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of Public Trustee for the year 2022; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Debt Conciliation Board for the year 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Dilan Perera, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation & National Security presented the Report of the Committee on—

- (i) Office for National Unity and Reconciliation Bill;
- (ii) Mediation Board (Amendment) Bill; and
- (iii) Recognition and Enforcement of International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation Bill

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Mrs) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children and Women and Gender presented the Report of the Committee on "Recommendations on Issues Related to the Safety and Care of Children between the Ages of 0-5 years of Employed Women in Sri Lanka".

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

(4) Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security presented the Report of the Committee on National Hydrographic Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(5) Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security presented the Report of the Committee on Annual Report of the Defence Services Command and Staff College for the year 2022 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(6) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development presented the Report of the above Committee on Annual Performance Report of the Central Environment Authority for the year 2021 which was referred to the Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Nalin Fernando presented a petition dated 25.08.2023 from Mrs. G.M. Wajira Chandralatha of No. 53, Ranavirugama, Dombagoda, Horana.
- (2) Hon. Tissa Attanayake presented a petition dated 22.09.2023 from Mr. E.S.N Edirisinghe of No. 8/A, Victoria View, Haragama, Kapuliyadda.
- (3) Hon. Vijitha Herath presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 31.08.2023 from Mr. R.M Nimal Kularathna of 'Shanthi', Magulagama, ; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 17.09.2023 from Mr. W.M Ranathunga of No. 643/1, Meththarama Road, Kottawa, Pannipitiya.
- (4) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented a petition dated 09.09.2023 from Mr. S.M Weerakoon Banda of No. 44/03, Pitiyegedara, Thenna, Matale.

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

6. Secured Transactions: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,—Bill to Provide for an Institutional framework for the regulation of secured transactions in movable property by the establishment of the secured transactions registration authority; to set out the powers, duties and functions of such authority; to provide for the determining of priorities amongst creditors having competing security rights in the movable property of their debtors; to set out the rights and duties or parties to security agreements; to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a register of security rights in movable property; to repeal the secured transactions Act, No.49 of 2009; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

7. Prescription (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,—Bill to amend the Prescription Ordinance (Chapter 68).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

8. Trust Receipts (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,—Bill to amend the Trust Receipts Ordinance (Chapter 86).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

9. Mortgage (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to amend the Mortgage Act (Chapter 89).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

10. Finance Leasing (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to amend the Finance Leasing Act, No.56 of 2000.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

11. Inland Trust Receipts (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to amend the Inland Trust Receipts Act, No.14 of 1990.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

12. Companies (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to amend the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

13. Registration of Documents (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to amend the Registration of Documents Ordinance (Chapter 117).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

14. Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to provide for the establishment of the Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka; to regulate the moneylending business and the microfinance business; to provide protection for the customers of the money lending business and the microfinance business; to repeal the Microfinance Act, No.6 of 2016 and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

15. Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment presented,— Bill to amend the Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) Act (Chapter 129).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Foreign Employment & Labour

16. Office for National Unity and Reconciliation Bill— Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 12.23 p.m. the Deputy Speaker of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 1.03 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. Kins Nelson, seconded by Hon. Lalith Ellawala moved,— That Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

At 1.47 p.m. Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri took the Chair.

(At 4.33 p.m. the Deputy Speaker of Committees took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 48; Noes: 07.

The following Fifty Three (53) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 001. Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi	Yes
G 002. Nimal Siripala De Silva	Yes
G 005. Prasanna Ranatunga	Yes
G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	Yes
G 010. Bandula Gunawardana	Yes
G 012. Mahinda Amaraweera	Yes
G 013. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	Yes
G 024. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya	Yes
G 028. Janaka Wakkumbura	Yes
G 031. Thenuka Vidanagamage	Yes
G 032. Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon	Yes
G 034. Rohana Dissanayaka	Yes
G 037. Vijitha Berugoda	Yes
G 039. Sanath Nishantha	Yes
G 043. Anuradha Jayaratne	Yes
G 049. D. B. Herath	Yes

G 051. Seetha Arambepola	Yes
G 053. K. Kadder Masthan	Yes
G 054. Asoka Priyantha	Yes
G 056. Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe	Yes
G 059. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan	Yes
G 068. S. M. Chandrasena	Yes
G 076. Kapila Athukorala	Yes
G 077. Gayashan Nawananda	Yes
G 079. Jayantha Ketagoda	Yes
G 082. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura	Yes
G 088. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda	Yes
G 089. Udayakantha Gunathilaka	Yes
G 092. Kulasingam Dhileeban	Yes
G 093. Sudarshana Denipitiya	Yes
G 096. H. Nandasena	Yes
G 097. Muditha Prishanthi	Yes
G 099. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal	Yes
G 101. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka	Yes
G 102. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha	Yes
G 107. Madhura Withanage	Yes
G 108. D. Weerasingha	Yes
G 109. Samanpriya Herath	Yes
G 110. Sagara Kariyawasam	Yes
G 111. Yadamini Gunawardena	Yes
G 112. Manjula Dissanayake	Yes
O 017. A. L. M. Athaullah	Yes
O 018. G. G. Ponnambalam	No
O 038. Selvarajah Kajendren	No
O 039. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan	No
O 042. Vadivel Suresh	Yes
O 058. Govindan Karunakaram	No
O 059. Dharmalingam Sithadthan	No
O 060. S. Noharathalingam	No
O 080. S. Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam	No
O 096. K. P. S. Kumarasiri	Yes
O 101. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	Yes
O 110. Weerasumana Weerasinghe	Yes

The following Two Members (02) of Parliament cast their votes having being asked the name by the Secretary-General of Parliament under the Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Parliament as follows:—

Hon. Susil Premajayantha	Yes
Hon. Marjan Faleel	Yes

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 9 were agreed to.

Clause 10

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 16 to 18 (both inclusive) in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“of internally displaced people, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of concerned persons ”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 5 in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“(o) to assist, guide and facilitate peace and reconciliation ”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause be added to the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 25 were agreed to.

Schedule

Question that the Schedule stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

17. National Hydrographic Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Clause 4

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 8 and 9 in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“ preparation, distribution, sale and updating of all types of navigational charts, publications and hydrographic services;”,

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 5 was agreed to.

Clause 6

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after the line 8 in page 9 :—

“(iii) Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of fisheries or his representative not below the rank of an Additional Secretary ; and”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 30 in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“referred to as “appointed members”) including at least one qualified Hydrographic Surveyor and one Nautical Cartographer.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 14 were agreed to.

Clause 15

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 20 to 26 (both inclusive) in page 15 and substitute the following:—

“(c) be a Hydrographic Surveyor with at least fifteen years post qualification experience-

(i) in professional activities of hydrographic surveying;

(ii) in hydrographic project management;
and

(iii) and through understanding in nautical cartography;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 1 in page 16.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 16 and 17 were agreed to.

Clause 18

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 25 in page 20 and substitute the following:—

“Qualifications and experience as may be prescribed in compliance with international standards.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clauses 19 and to 22 were agreed to.

Clause 23

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 15 in page 24 and substitute the following:—

“ Surveyor or the Nautical Cartographer, the Office may,
after due inquiry cancel”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 24 was agreed to.

Clause 25

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 16 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“(a) a registered Hydrographic Surveyor and a”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 26 to 42 were agreed to.

Clause 43

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 15 to 18 (both inclusive) in page 33 and substitute the following:—

“Directions of the Minister	43. The Minister may from time to time, for the purpose of giving effect to the objectives of the Act and the State policy, issue to the Council, general directions as to the exercise, performance and discharge of the powers, duties and functions of the Office.”;
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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 Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 47

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 29 to 31 (both inclusive) in page 37 and substitute the following:—

“ hydrospatial” means the hydrospatial sciences or denoting data, information and knowledge that is associated with a particular location and time of earth’s waters and their contiguous zones;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 2 in page 38.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 8 in page 38.

“ marine” means anything related to navigation or shipping and includes anything related to or connected with the sea and refers to things which are used or adopted for the use at sea;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 9 to 11(both inclusive) in page 38 and substitute the following:—

“ marine data” means data relating to navigation or shipping and includes any data related to or connected with sea and refers to data which are used or adopted for the use at sea;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 19 in page 38.

“ maritime” means bordering on, concerned with or related to the sea;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out lines 20 to 31 (both inclusive) in page 39 and substitute the following:—

“ nautical chart” means a chart specifically designed to meet the requirements of marine navigation, showing depths of water, nature of bottom, elevations, configuration and characteristics of coast, dangers, and aids to navigation.”; and”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 48 was agreed to.

New Clause

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after the line 18 in page 30 :—

“Authenticity of
nautical charts & etc.”

34. Any nautical chart, fair sheet or any other navigational chart or bathymetric sheet prepared in accordance with any other written law, purporting to be a true copy of such a nautical chart or fair sheet and purporting to be signed by the National Hydrographer or any officer acting on his behalf shall be admissible in evidence in all cases and for all purposes and may be taken as *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the facts stated therein and it shall not be necessary to prove that such copy was in fact signed or authenticated by the National Hydrographer or the officer acting on his behalf or that it is a true copy or that the facts stated therein are accurate until the contrary is proved.”

Question that the Clause be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Question that the Clause be added to the Bill, put and agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

18. Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the following amendment to the existing Standing Orders of the Parliament made in terms of Standing Order 137 of the Parliament be agreed to:—

That the following new Standing Order be inserted as Standing Order 113 A of the Parliament immediately after the existing Standing Order 113 of the Parliament thereto:—

New Standing Order 113 A,—

COMMITTEE ON POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY

113 A (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the “Committee on Post-Legislative Scrutiny” consisting of twenty one Members nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee on Post- Legislative Scrutiny to examine the existing legislation and to propose necessary amendments to the Parliament to ensure the reforms, which are necessary for the purpose of achieving the expectations of the people.

(3) The Committee on Post-Legislative Scrutiny is empowered to engage in researches, if necessary, with the assistance of the experts to ascertain the legislative reforms needed from time to time.

(4) The Committee on Post-Legislative Scrutiny shall in every six months (06) report to the Parliament of the duties and functions performed by it to achieve the said goal.

Question put, and agreed to.

19. Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Deputy Speaker to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament

20. Chiththa Advanced Psychological Studies Open Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Deputy Speaker to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament

21. Adjournment (Commencement of Suspended Development Projects) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed and, debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.44 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, January 10th, 2024.