



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 105.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, January 23, 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. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

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. 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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
Affairs

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Health

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

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. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Fisheries
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 Piriven 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. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Non Cabinet Minister of State Plantation
Enterprises Reforms and State Minister of Finance
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. 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. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
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. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof

Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
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. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilake
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
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. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
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. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of six petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Anti-Terrorism’.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of two petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority’.”

III

“I wish to inform this House that the Committee on Parliamentary Business at its meeting held on January 12th 2024, has approved the establishment of ‘Caucus for the Evolution of Malaiyaga Plantation Community in Sri Lanka’, on the written request made by the Hon. Velu Kumar and 21 other Members of Parliament.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Insurance Trust Fund Board for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Council for Elders for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Alleviating the Impact of the Economic Crisis.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 124(6) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Technology in the report of the Committee on Ways and Means which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Urban Development and Housing presented 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 Prime Minister's Office in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Urban Development and Housing presented the Order made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2360/36 of 28th November 2023 and moved that the Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Skills Development Fund Limited for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of English of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2022.

and moved that, those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Education presented 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 Office of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament 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 Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department of Forest Conservation for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka -Talawakelle for the years 2020 and 2021 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented 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 Sports and Youth Affairs and the Department of Sports Development 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 Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Order made by the Minister of Tourism and Lands under Section 26(1) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005 on the recommendation of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority with regard to the declaration of a tourism development area and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2348/38 of 07th September 2023 and moved that the Order be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2354/22 of 19th October 2023 made by the Minister of Tourism and Lands under Section 53(6) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005 approving the Order made by the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority under Section 53(1) of the said Act on the recommendation of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2349/02 of 11th September 2023.

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

(13) The Minister of Power and Energy presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Energies (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (14) The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security presented the —
- (i) Annual Report of the Lanka Sathosa Limited for the year 2021; and
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Co-operative Development-Polgolla 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Mahindananda Aluthugamage, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plan presented the Report of the above Committee on the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Treasury Operations for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual Report of Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructures Development for the year 2022; and
- (v) Annual Report of the Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Limited for the year 2017

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the above Committee on the —

- (i) Orders under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007; and
- (ii) Order under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage & New Citizen presented the Report of the above Committee on the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of Department of National Archives for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report and Financial Statement of Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2021

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on

Media, Youth, Heritage & New Citizen presented on Online Safety Bill which was referred to the said Committee

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. D. B. Herath presented a petition dated 19.10.2023 from Mr. A.M. Mudiyanse Athapaththu of Ihala Ambale, Kotawehera, Nikaweratiya.
- (2) Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera presented a petition dated 04.01.2024 from Mr. M.C. Prasad Kumara of Mahahena, Galdola, Kotapola.
- (3) Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage presented a petition dated 30.09.2023 from Mr. P.R. Preethikumara of No.50/22, 'Isurusandella', Dambawela Road, Ampitiya.
- (4) Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha presented a petition dated 12.11.2023 from Mrs. I.R.P. Manike of F 1/62, Randiwala, Mawanella.

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

5. Social Security Contribution Levy (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to amend the Social Security Contribution Levy Act, No. 25 of 2022.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, February 06, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Suspension of Sittings

At 9.57 a.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 10.55 a.m.

At 10.55 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

6. Online Safety Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

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

Question whether the Second Reading debate on the Bill be commenced put and agreed to; the Parliament having divided as follows : Ayes: 83; Noes: 50;

The following One Hundred and Twenty Six (126) 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 003. Chamal Rajapaksa	Yes

G 004. Mahinda Rajapaksa	Yes
G 005. Prasanna Ranatunga	Yes
G 006. Susil Premajyantha	Yes
G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	Yes
G 011. Keheliya Rambukwella	Yes
G 012. Mahinda Amaraweera	Yes
G 013. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	Yes
G 017. Vidura Wickramanayaka	Yes
G 018. Kanchana Wijesekera	Yes
G 020. Tiran Alles	Yes
G 022. Nalin Fernando	Yes
G 028. Janaka Wakkumbura	Yes
G 029. Shehan Semasinghe	Yes
G 030. Kanaka Herath	Yes
G 031. Thenuka Vidanagamage	Yes
G 032. Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon	Yes
G 033. Lasantha Alagiyawanna	Yes
G 034. Rohana Dissanayaka	Yes
G 036. Arundika Fernando	Yes
G 037. Vijitha Berugoda	Yes
G 040. Tharaka Balasuriya	Yes
G 041. Indika Anuruddha Herath	Yes
G 042. Siripala Gamalath	Yes
G 043. Anuradha Jayaratne	Yes
G 045. D.V. Chanaka	Yes
G 046. Sisira Jayakody	Yes
G 047. Piyal Nishantha De Silva	Yes
G 048. Prasanna Ranaweera	Yes
G 049. D. B. Herath	Yes
G 050. Shasheendra Rajapaksa	Yes
G 051. Seetha Arambepola	Yes
G 052. Shantha Bandara	Yes
G 053. K. Kadder Masthan	Yes
G 054. Asoka Priyantha	Yes
G 057. Suren Raghavan	Yes
G 059. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan	Yes

G 061. Anupa Pasqual	Yes
G 064. Gamini Lokuge	Yes
G 065. Vajira Abeywardena	Yes
G 067. C. B. Rathnayake	Yes
G 068. S. M. Chandrasena	Yes
G 069. Mahindananda Aluthgamage	Yes
G 072. Sarath Weerasekara	Yes
G 076. Kapila Athukorala	Yes
G 079. Jayantha Ketagoda	Yes
G 080. Sampath Athukorala	Yes
G 082. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura	Yes
G 083. Pradeep Undugoda	Yes
G 084. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	Yes
G 085. Akila Ellawala	Yes
G 086. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi	Yes
G 087. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku	Yes
G 090. Kokila Gunawardene	Yes
G 091. Milan Jayathilake	Yes
G 093. Sudarshana Denipitiya	Yes
G 094. Isuru Dodangoda	Yes
G 095. Premnath C. Dolawatte	Yes
G 096. H. Nandasena	Yes
G 097. Muditha Prishanthi	Yes
G 098. Sudath Manjula	Yes
G 099. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal	Yes
G 102. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha	Yes
G 103. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha	Yes
G 104. M. Rameshwaran	Yes
G 105. Rajika Wickramasinghe	Yes
G 106. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana	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

G 113. Ranjith Bandara	Yes
G 114. Jayantha Weerasinghe	Yes
G 116. Lalith Varna Kumara	Yes
O 003. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar	No
O 004. Tissa Attanayake	No
O 005. Rauff Hakeem	No
O 006. Gayantha Karunatileka	No
O 007. Lakshman Kiriella	No
O 008. Sajith Premadasa	No
O 009. Kumara Welgama	No
O 012. Mano Ganesan	No
O 015. G.L. Peiris	No
O 016. Anura Dissanayaka	No
O 018. G. G. Ponnambalam	No
O 026. Harsha De Silva	No
O 028. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara	No
O 029. Dilip Wedaarachchi	No
O 030. Niroshan Perera	No
O 031. Eran Wickramaratne	No
O 032. J. C. Alawathuwala	No
O 036. Dullas Alahapperuma	No
O 043. Faizal Cassim	No
O 044. Ashok Abeysinghe	No
O 048. Buddhika Pathirana	No
O 049. M. S. Thowfeek	No
O 054. Wimal Weerawansa	No
O 057. Harini Amarasuriya	No
O 058. Govindan Karunakaram	No
O 060. S. Noharathalingam	No
O 062. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana	No
O 064. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera	No
O 065. S. M. Marikkar	No
O 066. Imran Maharroof	No
O 069. Rohini Kumari Wijerathna	No
O 072. M. Udayakumar	No
O 073. Jayarathna Herath	No

O 074. Duminda Dissanayake	Yes
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	No
O 078. M. A. Sumanthiran	No
O 083. Rohana Bandara	No
O 086. Nalaka Godahewa	No
O 088. Sudarshini Fernandopulle	No
O 089. Nimal Lanza	Yes
O 092. Sarathie Dushmantha	No
O 095. Udayana Kirindigoda	No
O 101. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	Yes
O 107. Wasantha Yapabandara	No
O 109. Gamini Waleboda	No
O 110. Weerasumana Weerasinghe	No
O 111. Gevindu Cumaratunga	No
O 112. Charitha Herath	No

The following Seven (07) Members of Parliament cast their votes having being asked the names by the Secretary-General of Parliament under the Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Parliament as follows:—

Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda	Yes
Marjan Faleel	Yes
Nalin Bandara Jayamaha	No
Dayasiri Jayasekara	No
Nayana Wasalathilake	No
V. Radhakrishnan	No
Upul Galappaththi	No

The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.41 a.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

The Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, seconded by Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha moved,—That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatta Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

The Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala, seconded by Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera moved,—
That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.55 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana moved,—That Hon. Mohomad Muzammil do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.21 p.m. Hon. Mohomad Muzammil took the Chair.)

(At 4.20 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of the Public Security moved,—
That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

7. Select Committee of Parliament to make recommendations for the Review and Reform of Legal Education in Sri Lanka: Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, moved,—Whereas Sri Lanka Law College is established and maintained under the provisions of Council of Legal Education Ordinance No. 2 of 1900 enacted as of far back in year 1900 and the Council is consisting of seven members which includes three ex-officio members and four persons appointed by the Minister of Justice;

And whereas three ex-officio members are the Chief Justice, Secretary to the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General and the Chief Justice serves as the ex-officio Chairman, while the principal of the Law College is appointed on a contract basis from time to time;

And whereas the number of students enrolling in the College has rapidly increased over the last two to three decades, neither has the scope of education expanded nor have the required facilities been provided and there are a few gateways through which students can enter the College, such as;

a) direct enrollments through competitive examinations;

b) students who have completed local LL.B degree from

(i) The University of Colombo

(ii) The University of Peradeniya

(iii) The University of Jaffna

(iv) The Open University of Sri Lanka

(v) General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University;

c) students who have completed LL.B degree from overseas universities which have been recognized by the Council of Legal Education;

And whereas there are around 7,500 students at present, the infrastructure facility remains almost the same as it was prior to a few decades and there is only one permanent teacher in the College despite being the student population of around 7,500;

And whereas the reformation and revisit of the overall affairs of legal education and the Law College remain long overdue;

And whereas there are two categories of professionals who enter the legal profession together with the professional qualifications from the Law College,

a) Attorneys-at-Law who have passed the three examinations of the Law College,

b) Attorneys-at-Law who have obtained an LL.B degree either from a local or overseas university and passed the final year examination of the Law College who are qualified both academically and professionally;

And whereas the scope of legal education has been widened over the last few decades in many jurisdictions and similarly, many new subjects and disciplines have been added to the legal education;

That this Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament to make recommendations for the Review and Reform of Legal Education in Sri Lanka, be appointed since there is a timely need to expand legal education and to have new legal framework to meet the existing requirement:—

- (a) to formulate State Policy relating to legal studies for legal professionals and the required standards of the legal profession;
 - (b) to introduce policy and a legal framework for the establishment of a governing body to regulate legal education for legal professionals;
 - (c) to introduce a criterion for the members to be appointed to the governing body of legal education;
 - (d) to introduce a procedure to be applied in relation to—
 - i) Admission to the Law College and the basic requirements; and
 - ii) A criterion to be applied in relation to the recognition of the law degree for the purpose of admission of students to Law College.
 - (e) to introduce a criterion regarding education modules taking into consideration the diversified professional requirements in the modern world;
 - (f) to introduce a model to operate it independently and self-sufficiently; and
 - (g) any other matter incidental to the advancement and standard of professional legal studies and practice.
2. (a) That the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
 - (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall consist of Fifteen (15) Members.
 3. That the Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) fix its quorum;

- (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
- (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
- (d) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.

4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of six months (06) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Heart to Heart Trust Fund (Incorporation) Bill: Order for consideration read.

Bill, as amended in the Legislative Standing Committee Considered.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the amendments made by the Legislative Standing Committee be agreed to.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education 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.

9. Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya (Incorporation) (Amendment) Bill: Order for consideration read.

Bill, as amended in the Legislative Standing Committee Considered.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the amendments made by the Legislative Standing Committee be agreed to.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education 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.

10. Sri Balabhivurdhi Wardana Samithiya (Incorporation) Bill: Order for consideration read.

Bill, as amended in the Legislative Standing Committee Considered.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the amendments made by the Legislative Standing Committee be agreed to.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education 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.

11. Samadhi Community Development Foundation (Incorporation) Bill: Order for consideration read.

Bill, as amended in the Legislative Standing Committee Considered.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the amendments made by the Legislative Standing Committee be agreed to.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education 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.

12. Dassana Bauddha Sanvidhanaya (Incorporation) Bill: Order for consideration read.

Bill, as amended in the Legislative Standing Committee Considered.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the amendments made by the Legislative Standing Committee be agreed to.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education 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.

13. Dedigama Sri Maithri Pragnartha Bouddha Educational Daham Sabhawa (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.

14. Saweera Foundation (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.

15. Pavithra Wanniarachchi Sahurda Foundation (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.

16. Leave to withdraw a Bill: Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That leave be granted to withdraw the following Bill appears as Item No. 24 of today's Order Paper of Parliament:—

“Partition Bill”

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.36 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.