



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 106.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 24, 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. (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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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 Rajapakse, 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education

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. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana

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 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. 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. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. 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. Vasudeva Nanayakkara

Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
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. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
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. Chamal Rajapaksa
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. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilake
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
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. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
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. Jayantha Samaraweera
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. 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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தில்ங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

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

January 23rd, 2024

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

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of another eighteen petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Anti-Terrorism’, in addition to the receipt of six Petitions mentioned in my announcement dated 23 January 2024.”

III

“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 ‘Prevention of Frauds (Amendment)’, ‘Mediation Board (Amendment)’ ‘Powers of Attorney (Amendment)’ and ‘Office for National Unity and Reconciliation’ on 23th January 2024.”

3. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 read with Part VII of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2338/39 of 28th June 2023; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 read with Sections 21, 22, 23, 24 and 24A of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2352/29 of 05th October 2023

and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Crafts Council for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) 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 State Ministry of Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure 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.

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, the Chair of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges presented the Second Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges for the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

(2) Hon. Gamini Lokuge, the Chair of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services presented the First Report of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services for the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Wajira Abeywardana presented—

(i) A petition dated 18.10.2023 from Mr. G.P.H. Nihal Nandasiri of 'Ranga', Mahawela, Nakulugamuwa.; and

(ii) A petition dated 09.10.2023 from Mr. W. Piyadasa of 'Shriyani', Mandorawala, Urugasmanhandiya.

(2) Hon. Jayarathna Herath presented a petition dated 26.09.2023 from Mr. J.M. Dayarathna of Galabada watta, Horombuwa, Wariyapola.

(3) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —

(i) A petition dated 06.02.2023 from Mr. Anura Weerasingha of No. 106 A, Hewage Watta, Hiththatiya Meda, Matara; and

(ii) A petition dated 16.10.2023 from Mrs. Sumana Jayathilaka of No. 78/2, Old Road, Nawala.

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

6. Partition (Amendment): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,— Bill to amend the Partition Law No. 21 of 1977.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, February, 07, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-abiding Society.

7. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.. At 5.00 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 5 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.

9. Privileges: Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law, seconded by the Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, M.P. on 07th November, 2023 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 06th, 2024

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Online Safety Bill: Order read for resuming the adjourned debate on question (23rd January, 2024).

“That the Bill be now read a Second Time” question again proposed; and debate resumed.

(At 12.06 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 12.57 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees)

The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That Hon. (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.01 p.m. Hon. (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.25 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.03 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Security moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.36 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 4.59 p.m. Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows : Ayes: 108; Noes: 62.

The following One Hundred and Sixty Eight (168) 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 Premajayantha	Yes
G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	Yes
G 009. Douglas Devananda	Yes
G 010. Bandula Gunawardana	Yes
G 011. Keheliya Rambukwella	Yes
G 012. Mahinda Amaraweera	Yes
G 013. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	Yes
G 015. Ramesh Pathirana	Yes
G 017. Vidura Wickramanayaka	Yes
G 018. Kanchana Wijesekera	Yes
G 019. Manusha Nanayakkara	Yes
G 020. Tiran Alles	Yes
G 021. Ajith Rajapakse	Yes
G 022. Nalin Fernando	Yes
G 024. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya	Yes
G 025. Jagath Pushpakumara	Yes
G 026. Dilum Amunugama	Yes
G 027. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva	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 037. Vijitha Berugoda	Yes
G 038. Lohan Ratwaththe	Yes

G 039. Sanath Nishantha	Yes
G 040. Tharaka Balasuriya	Yes
G 041. Indika Anuruddha Herath	Yes
G 042. Siripala Gamalath	Yes
G 043. Anuradha Jayaratne	Yes
G 044. S. Viyalanderan	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 055. A. Aravindh Kumar	Yes
G 056. Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe	Yes
G 057. Suren Raghavan	Yes
G 058. Diana Gamage	Yes
G 059. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan	Yes
G 060. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake	Yes
G 061. Anupa Pasqual	Yes
G 063. S. B. Dissanayake	Yes
G 064. Gamini Lokuge	Yes
G 065. Vajira Abeywardena	Yes
G 066. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon	Yes
G 067. C. B. Rathnayake	Yes
G 068. S. M. Chandrasena	Yes
G 069. Mahindananda Aluthgamage	Yes
G 071. Namal Rajapaksa	Yes
G 072. Sarath Weerasekara	Yes
G 073. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka	Yes
G 074. Roshan Ranasinghe	No
G 076. Kapila Athukorala	Yes
G 077. Gayashan Nawananda	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 088. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda	Yes
G 089. Udayakantha Gunathilaka	Yes
G 090. Kokila Gunawardene	Yes
G 091. Milan Jayathilake	Yes
G 092. Kulasingam Dhileeban	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 100. Nipuna Ranawaka	Yes
G 101. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka	Yes
G 102. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha	Yes
G 103. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha	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 115. Marjan Faleel	Yes
G 116. Lalith Varna Kumara	Yes
O 001. Rishad Bathiudeen	No
O 002. Rajitha Senarathne	No
O 003. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar	No
O 004. Tissa Attanayake	No

O 005. Rauff Hakeem	No
O 006. Gayantha Karunatilleka	No
O 007. Lakshman Kiriella	No
O 008. Sajith Premadasa	No
O 009. Kumara Welgama	No
O 010. Patali Champika Ranawaka	No
O 012. Mano Ganesan	No
O 013. Maithreepala Sirisena	No
O 015. G.L. Peiris	No
O 016. Anura Dissanayaka	No
O 017. A. L. M. Athaullah	Yes
O 018. G. G. Ponnambalam	No
O 022. Kabir Hashim	No
O 024. Abdul Haleem	No
O 026. Harsha De Silva	No
O 029. Dilip Wedaarachchi	No
O 030. Niroshan Perera	No
O 031. Eran Wickramaratne	No
O 032. J. C. Alawathuwala	No
O 033. John Seneviratne	Yes
O 036. Dullas Alahapperuma	No
O 037. Vijitha Herath	No
O 040. Ali Sabri Raheem	Yes
O 042. Vadivel Suresh	Yes
O 043. Faizal Cassim	No
O 046. Ali Zahir Moulana Seyad	No
O 047. Ajith Mannapperuma	No
O 048. Buddhika Pathirana	No
O 049. M. S. Thowfeek	No
O 050. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha	No
O 051. Hector Appuhamy	No
O 052. Thushara Indunil Amarasena	No
O 053. Dilan Perera	No
O 056. Vasudeva Nanayakkara	No
O 057. Harini Amarasuriya	No
O 058. Govindan Karunakaram	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 068. Harshana Rajakaruna	No
O 069. Rohini Kumari Wijerathna	No
O 072. M. Udayakumar	No
O 074. Duminda Dissanayake	Yes
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	No
O 076. Dayasiri Jayasekara	No
O 077. Sivagnanam Shritharan	No
O 078. M. A. Sumanthiran	No
O 079. Charles Nirmalanathan	No
O 080. S. Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam	No
O 081. W. H. M. Dharmasena	No
O 082. Kins Nelson	No
O 083. Rohana Bandara	No
O 089. Nimal Lanza	Yes
O 090. Jayantha Samaraweera	No
O 091. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara	No
O 092. Sarathie Dushmantha	No
O 095. Udayana Kirindigoda	No
O 101. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	Yes
O 107. Wasantha Yapabandara	No
O 110. Weerasumana Weerasinghe	No
O 112. Charitha Herath	No

The following two (02) 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:—

Sarath Fonseka	No
V. Radhakrishnan	No

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security 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.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“(b) a loss, damage or harm is caused within or outside”.

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 3

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 15 to 18 (both inclusive) in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“3. The objectives of this Act shall be-

- (a) to protect persons against harm caused by communication of prohibited statements, by way of an online account or through an online location;”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 4 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“of the judiciary, by way of an online account or through an online location;”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 10 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“communicate prohibited statements in Sri Lanka, by way of online account or through an online location.”.

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out line 16 to 18 (both inclusive) in page 01 and substitute the following:—

- a) To protect persons against harm caused by communication of prohibited statements by way of online account or through an online location.
- b) To ensure protection from communication of statement in contempt of court or prejudicial to the maintenance of the authority and impartiality of the judiciary by way of online account or through an online location.

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 10 (both inclusive) in page 02.

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

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

Clause 4 was agreed to.

Clause 5

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 22 and 26 (both inclusive) in page 2 and substitute the following:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>"Appointment of the members of the Commission</p> | <p>5. (1) The Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Constitutional Council, from among the persons having qualifications and experience in one or more of the fields of information technology, law, governance, social services, journalism, science and technology or management.</p> <p>(2) Subject to the provisions of section 6, the President shall recommend the names of five persons to be appointed as members of the Commission under subsection (1), to the Constitutional Council for approval.</p> <p>(3) The President shall, within a period of fourteen days of receiving the approval of the Constitutional Council, appoint the persons approved by the Constitutional Council under subsection (2) as members of the Commission.</p> <p>(4) Where the Constitutional Council refuses to approve the name of a person referred to in subsection (2), the President shall make a fresh nomination, and the provisions of subsections (1), (2), and (3) shall apply to such nomination accordingly.</p> <p>(5) In the event of the President failing to make the necessary appointments within the period of fourteen days as specified in subsection (3), the persons approved by the Constitutional Council shall be deemed to have been appointed as the members of the Commission, with effect from the date of the expiry of such period."</p> |
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Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out line 23 in page 02 and substitute the following:—

- 1) The Commission shall consist of five members nominated by the Constitutional Council and appointed by the President, from among The persons having qualifications and experience in one or more of the fields of information technology, law, governance, social services, journalism, science and technology or management.
- 2) Subject to the provisions of sections 6, the Constitutional Council shall nominate the names of five persons to be appointed as members of the Commission under subsection (1), to the President for appointment.
- 3) The President shall, within a period of fourteen days of receiving nomination from the Constitutional Council, appoint the persons nominated by the Constitutional Council under sub section (2) as members of the commission.
- 4) In the event of the President failing to make the necessary appointments within the period of fourteen days as specified in subsection (3), the persons nominated by the Constitutional Council shall be deemed to have been appointed as the members of the Commission, with effect from the date of the expiry of such period”

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

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

Clause 6 was agreed to.

Clause 7

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 1 and 2 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

"(2) A member of the Commission may be removed from his office by the President, subject to the approval of the Constitutional Council following a hearing of the relevant member where such person-

- (a) is unable to exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of such office because of an infirmity of body or mind that has lasted for more than a period of three months;
 - (b) has failed to exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of such office for a consecutive period of more than three months without the approval of the Commission; or
 - (c) is disqualified in terms of the provisions of section 6.
- (3) Any hearing under subsection (2) shall be concluded within three months from the date of commencement of such hearing.

(4) Upon the receipt of the approval of the Constitutional Council, the President shall, in writing, remove such member of the Commission, and shall state in the letter of removal-

- (a) the date on which the removal shall take effect which shall not be a date earlier than the date on which the letter of removal is received; and
- (b) the reasons for the removal.

(5) Any member of the Commission may be suspended from the office by the President prior to the commencement of the hearing or during the course of the hearing under subsection (2)".

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 8 was agreed to.

Clause 9

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 27 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“ Commission present and voting at the meeting at which the decision is taken. The decision so supported by the votes of 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 10 was agreed to.

Clause 11

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 13 and 14 and substitute the following:—

"(b) to issue notices to persons who communicate prohibited statements,";

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 16 to 18 (both inclusive) in page 7.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 25 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

"(e) to refer to the appropriate court as provided for in paragraph (3) of Article 105 of the Constitution or any other relevant written law for its consideration;"

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 3 (both inclusive) in page 8 and substitute the following:—

"(f) to make recommendations to internet service providers and internet intermediaries to remove prohibited statements;"

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 11 and 12 in page 8 and substitute the following:—

"(i) to carry out such investigations as may be necessary to exercise and perform the powers and functions of the Commission;"

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 9 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

" Commission;

(q) to appoint, employ and dismiss members of the staff of the Commission and to exercise disciplinary control over such staff; 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 12

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 23 to 25 (both inclusive) in page 9 and substitute the following:—

"to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees or to both such imprisonment and fine.";

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out the words “false statements of fact” and substitute the following in marginal note:—

“ false statements”

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

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

Clause 13

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 27 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“communicates a false statement by way of an online account or through an online location which amounts to contempt”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 2 to 4 (both inclusive) in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“ Constitution or any other relevant written law, commits an offence and the provisions of that Article and relevant written law shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in sentencing such person.”.

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 14

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 to 8 (both inclusive) in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“ maliciously or wantonly, by way of an online account or through an online location, by communicating a false statement, gives provocation to any person or incites any person intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation or incitement, will cause the”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 13 in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“ exceeding five years, or to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees or to both such”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 17 in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“exceeding three years, or to a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand rupees, or to both”.

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 15

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 25 to 28 (both inclusive) in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“three years, or to a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand rupees, or to both such imprisonment and fine.”.

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out lines 19 to 28 (both inclusive) in page 10.

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

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

Clause 16

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 1 to 10 (both inclusive) in page 11.

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 17

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 13 to 20 (both inclusive) in page 11 and substitute the following:—

“religious feelings of any class of persons by way of an online account or through an online location by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representations, insults or attempts to insult the religion or the religious beliefs of that class by communicating a false statement, commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding three years, or to a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand rupees or to both such imprisonment and fine.”.

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 18

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 31 in page 11 and substitute the following:—

“omission causes or is likely to cause”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out the marginal note and substitute the following :—

“Online cheating”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 3 to 8 in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“commits the offence of "online cheating" and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years or to a fine not exceeding seven hundred thousand rupees, or to both such imprisonment and fine.”.

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 19

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 10 to 13 (both inclusive) in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“means of an online account, cheats by-

- (a) pretending to be some other person;
- (b) knowingly substituting one person for another; or
- (c) representing that such person or any other person is a”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 15 to 20 in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“commits the offence of “online cheating by personation” and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years or to a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand rupees, or to both such imprisonment and fine.”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out the marginal note and substitute the following :—

“Online cheating by personation”;

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out lines 9 to 20 (both inclusive) in page 12.

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

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

Clause 20

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 21 to 29 (both inclusive) in page 20.

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.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 3 (both inclusive) in page 13.

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 21

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 12 to 15 (both inclusive) in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“seven years, or to a fine not exceeding seven hundred thousand rupees, or to both such imprisonment and fine.”.

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 22

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 17 in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“wilfully makes or communicates a statement, with”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out the words “statements of fact” and substitute the following in marginal note:—

“statements”

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 23

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 21 to 27 (both inclusive) in page 14 and substitute the following:—

"Child abuse &c 23. (1) Any person, whether in or outside Sri Lanka, who, by way of an online account or through an online location commits or aids and abets an act upon a child, which constitutes an offence within the meaning of section 286A, 288, 288A, 288B, 308A, 360A, 360B, 360C, 363, 364A, 365, 365A or 365B of the Penal Code commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to the punishment for each such offence as specified in the Schedule hereto:

Provided however, in the case of aiding and abetting to commit an offence under section 363 of the Penal Code in respect of a child, every reference to a "woman" in subsection (2) of section 364 of the Penal Code shall be read and construed as a reference to a "child" for the purpose of this section.

(2) Any person, whether in or outside Sri Lanka, who, by way of an online account or through an online location, publishes any photograph, audio or video of abusive or pornographic nature relating to a child, commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not less than two years and not exceeding twenty years or to a fine not exceeding one million rupees, or to both such imprisonment and fine.” ;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 8 (both inclusive) in page 15.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 20 to 23 (both inclusive) in page 15 and substitute the following:—

“not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees, or to both such imprisonment and fine.”.

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 25

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 24 to 31 (both inclusive) in page 15.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 8 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“Lanka, by any other person, may either in writing or”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 8 in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“investigations through the officers of the Commission.
During such investigations, an opportunity to be heard
shall be given to the person alleged to have
communicated such prohibited statement.”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 12 and 13 in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“seriousness of the matter and the likelihood of damage or
harm caused by such prohibited statement, issue notice”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 14 in page 18:—

“(9) Where-

- (a) a person fails to act in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (6); or
- (b) an internet service provider or internet intermediary fails to act in accordance with the provisions of subsection (8), the Commission may apply to the Magistrate's Court by way of petition and affidavit to obtain an order directing such person or internet service provider or internet intermediary, as the case may be, to comply with such provisions and the provisions of section 27 shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in relation to such application.”;

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 27

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 11 in page 20 and substitute the following:—

“(9) Where the person against whom any order is made”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 20 in page 20 and substitute the following:—

“prohibited statement in Sri Lanka; or”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 24 to 27 (both inclusive) in page 20 .

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 28

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 8 and 9 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“subsection (1), the Commission shall make an application to the Magistrate's Court by way of petition and affidavit seeking a conditional order directing”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 22 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“(10) Where the internet intermediary against whom”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 25 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“the Magistrate, such person shall be liable to a fine not”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 27 to 30 (both inclusive) in page 23.

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 29

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 24 and substitute the following:—

“civil action instituted in the District Court within the jurisdiction of which such aggrieved person resides, apply for an order directing the internet”.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 19 in page 24 and substitute the following:—

“seek redress in relation to the damage or harm caused by”.

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 30

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 26 to 29 (both inclusive) in page 24.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 6 (both inclusive) in page 25.

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 31

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 21 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

- “(d) computing resource service.”;
- (e) an email service, if emails are the only user-generated content enabled by such service;
- (f) a short message service (sms) or multimedia messaging service (mms)-
 - (i) if such short messages are the only user-generated content enabled by such service;
 - (ii) if such multimedia messages are the only user-generated content enabled by such service; or
 - (iii) if such short messages and multimedia messages are the only user-generated content enabled by such service;
- (g) one-to-one live aural communication service, if such one-to-one live aural communication are the only user-generated content enabled by such service.

(2) Where-

- a) a false statement, prohibited statement or material communicated on any service referred to in subsection (1) has been removed within six months from the date of coming in to operation of this Act; or
- b) any material has been uploaded or interfered with by third parties,

the owner of an online account or the service provider shall have no liability in relation to the statement or the material referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).”.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 28 to 30 (both inclusive) in page 25 and substitute the following:—

- “(d) has not complied with the provisions of this Act, any regulation or rule made thereunder or any code of practice issued by the Commission by way of rules made under this Act, in providing such service.
- (4) Any person who fails to adhere to the relevant code of practice issued by the Commission by way of rule made under this Act, and thereby causes wrongful loss to any other person, shall be liable to pay damages by way of compensation to the person who suffered such loss.”.

(5) For the purpose of this section-

“computing resource service” includes any internet service provided by a person to the public using any means except by the use of an internet intermediary service, a telecommunications service or a service of giving public access to the internet;

“telecommunication service” shall have the same meaning assigned to such term in the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act, No. 25 of 1991.”.

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out lines 7 to 30 (both inclusive) in page 25 and substitute the following:—

Subtitle – “Immunity from Intermediary Liability”

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other written law, and subject to the provisions of subsection (2), a person who engages in providing the following services shall not be subject any civil or criminal liability from any prohibited statement circulated through the online location owned, operated or controlled by such person, or for making available to the end users through such online location a communication link which contains any prohibited statement by any other party, which amounts to an offence under this Act or for any inauthentic online account or any direction of the Commission made under this Act or any compensation payable for any wrongful loss caused to any person by any prohibited statement or any other communication:-
 - (a) an internet intermediary service;
 - (b) Internet service provider;
 - (c) digital advertising intermediary, or
 - (d) a computer resource service.
- (2) Immunity from liability granted under subsections (1) and (2) shall not apply, if such person –
 - (a) has created and originated the communication; or has not complied with the code or practice formulated pursuant to Section 36 and adopted by way of rules under Section 53 of this Act

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

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

Clause 32

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 5 to 9 (both inclusive) in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“(a) three or more different prohibited statements have been communicated to the end users in Sri Lanka on such online location in respect of which conditional orders were made absolute by the Magistrate under section 27; and”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 22 and 23 in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“(d) the date on which the declaration expires”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 10 in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“(a) on the date specified therein, in”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 16 to 27 (both inclusive) in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“before the date it comes into effect, the Commission shall publish, in such form and manner as may be prescribed, a notice in the *Gazette* -

- (a) stating that a declaration has been issued under this section; and
- (b) setting out the URL, domain name, or any other unique identifier of the online location, to which the declaration relates.”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 in page 31 and substitute the following:—

“(15) Where the owner or operator of a declared online”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 11 to 14 in page 31.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 16 in page 31 and substitute the following:—

“cancel a declaration made under subsection (1) for such period ”.

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 33

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 22 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“(3) An internet”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 26 and 27 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“section 32 comes into effect, it does not, when acting as an internet intermediary”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 8 in page 33 and substitute the following:—

“(5) An internet”.

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 34 and 35 were agreed to.

Clause 36

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 1 in page 38 and substitute the following:—

“(11) Where the internet intermediary against whom”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 11 to 14 (both inclusive) in page 38 .

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out lines 2 and 3 in page 35 and substitute the following:—

"Industry Code of Practice"

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed another amendment to leave out lines 4 to 28 (both inclusive) in page 35 and substitute the following:—

Side note - Industry Code of Practice"

1. The Commission shall issue one or more codes of practice applicable to "internet intermediaries" and "Internet service providers" to deal with any of the following matters:
 - (a) To address harmful online content and behaviour, including Hate speech, Incitement to violence, Misinformation, Disinformation, Cyberbullying and harassment and Online sexual exploitation and abuse;
 - (b) to detect, control and safeguard against coordinated inauthentic behaviour and any other misuse of online accounts;
 - (c) To set operating standards and transparency reporting of proactive action taken to limit harmful content;
 - (d) prescribed digital advertising intermediaries or prescribed types of digital advertising intermediaries; and
 - (e) Prescribed internet intermediaries for the purpose of enhancing disclosure of the sponsor and other information concerning any paid content directed towards a political purpose, communicated in Sri Lanka.
 - (f) time period to comply with any directive issued by the Commission under paragraph (c) of section 11.
- (3) The Commission shall issue a notification [by order published in a Gazette] providing an opportunity for "internet intermediaries" and "Internet service providers" to formulate an industry code of practice 'herein after referred to as the "Code of Practice" ' on a voluntary basis, within nine months from the date of operation prescribed in Section 1, sub-section (2) to deal with matters specified in sub-section (1) of this Section.
- (3) In the event the "internet intermediaries" and "Internet service providers" are unable to formulate a code of practice on a voluntary basis, within nine months from the date specified under sub-section (2) or "internet intermediaries" and "Internet service providers" communicate their desire to the Commission to jointly formulate and agree to a code of practice together with the commission, then Commission shall take steps to formulate the code of practice to deal with matters specified in sub-section (1) of this Section

- (4) Upon the Commission taking steps pursuant to sub-section (3) of this Section, it shall be the duty of the Commission to publish a draft code of practice in electronic form and seek comments, observations and recommendations from “Internet intermediaries” and “Internet service providers”, during a period not less than three months and take steps to reach concurrence and consensus from “internet intermediaries” and “Internet service providers” for the implementation of the draft code of practice.
- (5) Once the Commission has obtained comments, observations and recommendations on the draft code of practice and obtained concurrence and consensus from “Internet intermediaries” and “Internet service providers” for implementation of the draft code of practice pursuant to sub-section (4) of this Section, the Commission shall take steps to hold public consultations on the draft code of practice, prior to the issuance of the code of practice in accordance with Section 53.
- (6) It shall be an obligation on “internet intermediaries” and “Internet service providers” to comply with the code of practice formulated pursuant to this Section, upon the code of practice being published as a rule in the Gazette in accordance with Section 53.

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed another amendment to leave out line 1 and 29 (both inclusive) in page 36.

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed another amendment to leave out line 1 and 32 (both inclusive) in page 37.

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed another amendment to leave out line 1 and 14 (both inclusive) in page 38.

Question that the amendments be agreed to put, and negatived; Parliament having divided as follows : Ayes: 51; Noes: 92.

The following One Hundred and Forty (140) 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	No
G 002. Nimal Siripala De Silva	No
G 003. Chamal Rajapaksa	No
G 005. Prasanna Ranatunga	No
G 006. Susil Premajyantha	No

G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	No
G 009. Douglas Devananda	No
G 010. Bandula Gunawardana	No
G 011. Keheliya Rambukwella	No
G 012. Mahinda Amaraweera	No
G 013. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	No
G 015. Ramesh Pathirana	No
G 017. Vidura Wickramanayaka	No
G 018. Kanchana Wijesekera	No
G 019. Manusha Nanayakkara	No
G 020. Tiran Alles	No
G 021. Ajith Rajapakse	No
G 022. Nalin Fernando	No
G 024. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya	No
G 025. Jagath Pushpakumara	No
G 026. Dilum Amunugama	No
G 027. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva	No
G 028. Janaka Wakkumbura	No
G 029. Shehan Semasinghe	No
G 030. Kanaka Herath	No
G 031. Thenuka Vidanagamage	No
G 032. Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon	No
G 034. Rohana Dissanayaka	No
G 037. Vijitha Berugoda	No
G 038. Lohan Ratwaththe	No
G 039. Sanath Nishantha	No
G 040. Tharaka Balasuriya	No
G 041. Indika Anuruddha Herath	No
G 042. Siripala Gamalath	No
G 043. Anuradha Jayaratne	No
G 044. S. Viyalanderan	No
G 045. D.V. Chanaka	No
G 046. Sisira Jayakody	No
G 047. Piyal Nishantha De Silva	No
G 048. Prasanna Ranaweera	No
G 049. D. B. Herath	No
G 050. Shasheendra Rajapaksa	No

G 051. Seetha Arambepola	No
G 052. Shantha Bandara	No
G 055. A. Aravindh Kumar	No
G 056. Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe	No
G 057. Suren Raghavan	No
G 058. Diana Gamage	No
G 059. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan	No
G 060. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake	No
G 061. Anupa Pasqual	No
G 064. Gamini Lokuge	No
G 068. S. M. Chandrasena	No
G 069. Mahindananda Aluthgamage	No
G 072. Sarath Weerasekara	No
G 073. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka	No
G 074. Roshan Ranasinghe	Yes
G 076. Kapila Athukorala	No
G 077. Gayashan Nawananda	No
G 079. Jayantha Ketagoda	No
G 080. Sampath Athukorala	No
G 082. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura	No
G 084. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	No
G 085. Akila Ellawala	No
G 087. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku	No
G 088. Nalaka Bandara Kottegododa	No
G 089. Udayakantha Gunathilaka	No
G 090. Kokila Gunawardene	No
G 091. Milan Jayathilake	No
G 092. Kulasingam Dhileeban	No
G 093. Sudarshana Denipitiya	No
G 094. Isuru Dodangoda	No
G 095. Premnath C. Dolawatte	No
G 096. H. Nandasena	No
G 097. Muditha Prishanthi	No
G 098. Sudath Manjula	No
G 099. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal	No
G 100. Nipuna Ranawaka	No
G 101. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka	No

G 103. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha	No
G 105. Rajika Wickramasinghe	No
G 106. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana	No
G 107. Madhura Withanage	No
G 108. D. Weerasingha	No
G 109. Samanpriya Herath	No
G 110. Sagara Kariyawasam	No
G 111. Yadamini Gunawardena	No
G 112. Manjula Dissanayake	No
G 114. Jayantha Weerasinghe	No
G 115. Marjan Faleel	No
G 116. Lalith Varna Kumara	No
O 001. Rishad Bathiudeen	Yes
O 002. Rajitha Senarathne	Yes
O 005. Rauff Hakeem	Yes
O 006. Gayantha Karunatileka	Yes
O 007. Lakshman Kiriella	Yes
O 008. Sajith Premadasa	Yes
O 009. Kumara Welgama	Yes
O 010. Patali Champika Ranawaka	Yes
O 012. Mano Ganesan	Yes
O 013. Maithreepala Sirisena	Yes
O 015. G.L. Peiris	Yes
O 016. Anura Dissanayaka	Yes
O 017. A. L. M. Athaullah	Yes
O 018. G. G. Ponnambalam	Yes
O 022. Kabir Hashim	Yes
O 024. Abdul Haleem	Yes
O 026. Harsha De Silva	Yes
O 028. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara	Yes
O 030. Niroshan Perera	Yes
O 031. Eran Wickramaratne	Yes
O 032. J. C. Alawathuwala	Yes
O 036. Dullas Alahapperuma	Yes
O 037. Vijitha Herath	Yes
O 046. Ali Zahir Moulana Seyad	Yes
O 048. Buddhika Pathirana	Yes

O 049. M. S. Thowfeek	Yes
O 050. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha	Yes
O 051. Hector Appuhamy	Yes
O 052. Thushara Indunil Amarasena	Yes
O 053. Dilan Perera	Yes
O 057. Harini Amarasuriya	Yes
O 066. Imran Maharroof	Yes
O 072. M. Udayakumar	Yes
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	Yes
O 077. Sivagnanam Shritharan	Yes
O 078. M. A. Sumanthiran	Yes
O 080. S. Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam	Yes
O 081. W. H. M. Dharmasena	Yes
O 082. Kins Nelson	Yes
O 083. Rohana Bandara	Yes
O 089. Nimal Lanza	No
O 091. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara	Yes
O 092. Sarathie Dushmantha	Yes
O 095. Udayana Kirindigoda	Yes
O 101. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	No
O 107. Wasantha Yapabandara	Yes
O 110. Weerasumana Weerasinghe	Yes
O 111. Gevindu Cumaratunga	Yes
O 112. Charitha Herath	Yes

The following three (03) 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:—

Sarath Fonseka	Yes
V. Radhakrishnan	Yes
Dayasiri Jayasekara	Yes

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

Clause 37

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 18 to 32 (both inclusive) in page 38 and substitute the following:—

“Appoint
ment of
experts
to assist
investiga
tions

37. (1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Minister assigned the subject of Justice, appoint, by Order published in the *Gazette*, any public officer or an employee of a Government department, public corporation or a Government company, having the required qualification and experience in electronic engineering or software technology (hereinafter referred to as an "expert") to assist the Commission in the investigation of an offence under this Act.

(2) For the purposes of this section-

“expert” includes-

- (a) any member of the staff of any University who possesses the prescribed qualification and, who is nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the relevant University;
- (b) any public institution which in the opinion of the relevant University possesses the prescribed qualification and is nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of such University:

Provided that where an "expert" cannot be identified in terms of paragraph (a) or (b) above the Minister may, in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor of the relevant University appoint any other institution which satisfies the prescribed qualification;

“Government company” means a company registered or deemed to be registered under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 in which the Government or a public Corporation or local authority holds fifty *per centum* or more of the shares of that company;

“university” means any University established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978.

(3) The qualification and experience (having regard to the specific areas of expertise) required to be fulfilled by an officer appointed under subsection (1) and the manner and mode of appointment and the conditions of appointment of such officer shall be as prescribed by regulations.

(4) For the purpose of an investigation under this Act, an expert called upon to assist the Commission shall, have the power to-

- (a) enter upon any premises along with a police officer not below the rank of a sub-inspector;
- (b) access any information system, computer or computer system or any programme, data or information held in such computer to perform any function or to do any such other thing;

- (c) require any person to disclose any traffic data;
 - (d) orally examine any person; and
 - (e) do such other things as may be reasonably required, for the purposes of this Act.
- (5) An expert shall be paid such remuneration as may be determined by the Minister in consultation with the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.
- (6) An expert may be called upon to assist the Commission or any police officer in the investigation of an offence under this Act and it shall be duty of the expert to render all such assistance as may be required for the purposes of such investigation. Where any proceedings have been commenced consequent to the findings of an investigation, it shall be the duty of the expert to make available for the purposes of such proceedings, any information, data, material or other matter that may be obtained by him in the course of such investigation."

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 28 (both inclusive) in page 39.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 8 (both inclusive) in page 40.

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 38 to 41 were agreed to.

Clause 42

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 23 to 25 (both inclusive) in page 41 and substitute the following:—

“42. (1) Save as expressly provided in this Act, the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to investigations, institution of proceedings, the trial of” ;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 27 in page 41:—

“ (2) Where the Commission, on consideration of material collected in the course of investigations conducted under this Act, is satisfied that any person has committed an offence under the provisions of this Act, it may take steps to institute criminal proceedings in terms of section 136 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979.”.

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 43 and 44 were agreed to.

Clause 45

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out lines 18 to 24 (both inclusive) in page 42 and substitute the following:—

“45. A person who abets an offence under this Act commits”;

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 46 to 52 were agreed to.

Clause 53

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 26 in page 46 and substitute the following:—

“be placed before Parliament for approval and any rule, which is not so approved, shall be deemed to be rescinded with effect from the date of such disapproval, but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder. ”.

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 54 and 55 were agreed to.

Clause 56

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to leave out line 21 in page 47 and substitute the following:—

“56. (1) In this Act unless the context otherwise requires-”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 12 in page 48 and substitute the following:—

"false statement or private information and";

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 23 to 30 (both inclusive) in page 48.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 3 (both inclusive) in page 49.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 22 in page 49 and substitute the following:—

“or received, including those offering telecommunication services under the Telecommunications Act No. 25 of 1991;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out line 6 in page 50 and substitute the following:—

“of the index of search results; or

(d) a service which facilitates the communication of paid content in any place by acting as the link or part of the link between, the owners or operators of online locations and advertisers and service providers, through the means of an internet based service,”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 3 in page 51:—

“publish” means making available to the public on or through the internet; ”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to leave out lines 4 to 8 (both inclusive) in page 51.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 24 in page 51:—

“(2) Any word or expression used in this Act and defined in the Penal Code but not defined in this Act shall have the same meaning assigned to such word or expression in the Penal Code.”.

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 57 was agreed to.

New Schedule

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed an amendment to insert immediately after line 26 in page 51 :—

“Schedule

(Section 23(1))

Section of the Penal Code	Offence under the Penal Code	Punishment
286A	Obscene publication &C. relating to children	Imprisonment of either description for a term not less than two years and not exceeding ten years and may also be punished with fine
288	Causing or procuring children to beg	Imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding five years and may also be liable to a fine
288A	Hiring or employing children to act as procurers for sexual intercourse	Imprisonment of either description for a term not less than two years and not exceeding five years and may also be liable to a fine
288B	Hiring or employing children to traffic in restricted articles	Imprisonment of either description for a term not less than five years and not exceeding seven years and may also be liable to a fine
308A	Cruelty to children	Imprisonment of either description for a term not less than two years and not exceeding ten years and may also be punished with fine and be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person

	Rape (a) by a public officer on a woman in his custody (b) by a person being on the management or staff of a remand home women's or children's institution &c. on ant women inmate	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years and fine and shall in addition be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person and further term of imprisonment which may extend up to two years in case of failure to pay compensation
	(c) by a person being on the management or staff of a hospital on a woman in that hospital (d) on a pregnant woman (e) on a woman under eighteen years (f) on a mentally or physically disabled woman (g) by a gang of Persons Rape on a woman under sixteen years of age and where such woman stands towards the man in any of the degrees of relationship enumerated in section 364A	
		Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than fifteen years and not exceeding twenty years and fine
364 A	Incest	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than seven years and not exceeding twenty years and fine
365	Unnatural offence	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years and fine and shall be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person

360A	Procuration	Imprisonment of either description for a term not less than two years and not exceeding ten years and may also be punished with fine
360B	Sexual exploitation of children	Imprisonment of either description for a term not less than five years and not exceeding twenty years and may also be punished with fine
360C	Trafficking	Imprisonment of either description for a term not less than three years and not exceeding twenty years and may also be punished with fine
363	Rape	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than seven years and not exceeding twenty years and fine and shall in addition be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person and further term of imprisonment which may extend up to two years in case of failure to pay compensation
	Rape (a) by a public officer on a woman in his custody (b) by a person being on the management or staff of a remand home women's or children's institution &c. on ant women inmate (c) by a person being on the management or staff of a hospital on a woman in that hospital (d) on a pregnant woman (e) on a woman under eighteen years (f) on a mentally or physically disabled woman	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years and fine and shall in addition be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person and further term of imprisonment which may extend up to two years in case of failure to pay compensation

	(g) by a gang of Persons Rape on a woman under sixteen years of age and where such woman stands towards the man in any of the degrees of relationship enumerated in section 364A	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than fifteen years and not exceeding twenty years and fine
364 A	Incest	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than seven years and not exceeding twenty years and fine
365	Unnatural offence	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years and fine and shall be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person
365A	Acts of gross indecency between persons	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years and fine and shall also be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person
365B	Grave sexual abuse	Rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than seven years and not exceeding twenty years and fine and shall also be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person".

”

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

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

General Amendments

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed the following amendments:—

- (a) by the substitution for the words “internet access service provider”, wherever those words occur in the Bill, of the words, “internet service provider”;
- (b) by the substitution for the words “service provider”, wherever those words occur in the Bill, of the words, “internet service provider”;

- (c) by the substitution for the words “digital advertising intermediary”, wherever those words occur in the Bill, of the words, “internet intermediary”; and
- (d) by the substitution for the words “one week”, wherever those words occur in the Bill, of the words, “two weeks”.

Question that the General amendments be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

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

Long title

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security proposed the following amendments in the long title in page 1:—

- (1) leave out the words “TO MAKE PROVISIONS TO PROHIBIT ONLINE COMMUNICATION OF CERTAIN STATEMENTS OF FACT IN SRI LANKA;” and substitute the words “TO PROVIDE SAFETY FROM PROHIBITED STATEMENTS MADE ONLINE;”; and
- (2) leave out the words “FALSE STATEMENTS OF FACT” and substitute the words “PROHIBITED STATEMENTS”.

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

Question that the Long title as amended, 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 Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security 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. Regulations under the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka Law: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 24 of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka Law, No.4 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2334/39 of 01st June 2023, which were presented on 09.12.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That 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, which was presented on 09.01.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Order under the Foreign Exchange Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2363/26 of 20th December 2023, which was presented on 11.01.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Select Committee of Parliament to carry out an in-depth investigation into the issues that have arisen related to the Nilwala river and other waterbodies in the Matara District and to make recommendations for the development of a set of new reconstruction proposals: The Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, seconded by the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva moved, — Whereas the Nilwala and Gin rivers that spring up from the Gongala and Rakwana mountain ranges of the Matara district, flow through Matara and Galle districts respectively, to meet the sea and further the Polwatta river too is another water source with similar significance;

And whereas in the decade of 1950, Dr. S.A. Wickramasinghe, the then Member of Parliament for Akuressa, has made the initial proposal on the diversion of the water of the Gin and Nilwala rivers of Sri Lanka to feed the south eastern Sri Lanka or the district of Hambantota further to the attention paid during the Dutch rule towards the water management and flood management of these rivers;

And whereas reports have been submitted by various experts on the possibility of systematically utilizing the water of the said rivers to maintain human activities, agricultural and industrial processes, biodiversity and environmental equilibrium by ensuring the management of annual floods through the management of water in the Gin and Nilawala rivers;

And whereas the project that was implemented after 1977 to prevent the flooding of the Nilwala river got suspended as a result of the situation that prevailed in the country during 1987-1989, converting the agricultural lands around the Nilwala river into bare lands and as a result of the flood threats that continue to prevail, serious issues came up due to sea water that flowed up the river Nilawala during droughts and got mixed with

the drinking water as well as with the agricultural lands, and as a result of the Nilawala salinity barrier that was made in response to the above issue, the flooded water remained in the fields for a long time, creating a catastrophic situation where the cultivators of paddy, cinnamon, vegetable, coconut and other crops and the dairy farmers encountered a host of difficulties;

And whereas a situation has arisen that makes it extremely essential to deeply analyse the failure of the salinity barrier of Nilwala river, in a backdrop where the salinity barrier of the Gin river became successful;

That this Parliament resolves that a select committee of Parliament should be appointed to make the appropriate recommendations on the following matters:—

- (a) to identify the effective features included in the studies done by the experts and specialists on the Gin and Nilawala rivers during the period of approximately 7 1/2 decades in independent Sri Lanka, after an in-depth analysis of them;
- (b) to receive proposals on the establishment of a practical program with a scientific basis related to the methodologies that create minimum pressure on the lives of the community, with a focus on the diversion of the excess water of the upper basins of the Gin and Nilawala rivers towards the south eastern Sri Lanka;
- (c) to conduct an in-depth investigation on the productivity of the measures taken and on the local and foreign funds spent in relation to the implementation of the development proposal mentioned in (b) above on previous occasions;
- (d) to issue recommendations on the drafting and implementation of expeditious short-term, medium term and long term proposals that need to be taken to eliminate all sorts of inconveniences that have arisen owing to the Nilwala salinity barrier;
- (e) to identify the water consumers of the district as well as the suitable areas to construct new water purification plants in the areas, including Digili Oya for the water projects that can be extended in the future; to propose new strategies by making a scientific analysis of the water pumping stations operative at present;
- (f) to propose a sustainable solution to the human-crocodile conflict that occurs in the Nilwala river;
- (g) to entertain relevant proposals for utilizing the water in the rivers of Nilwala and Gin to safeguard the industrial, agricultural, livestock fields, hydroelectricity generation, other human activities and biodiversity in Southern Province prior to that water flowing down to the sea;

- (h) to identify new creative approaches and make relevant recommendations for using these water sources for transportation, fresh water fisheries industries, tourism and cultural awakening as well as to submit proposals to solve the problems created by Gin–Nilwala accelerated multi-purpose project going beyond a mere flood prevention development project;
 - (i) to make relevant proposals to identify the development activities to be carried out in relation to Gin, Nilwala and Polwatta rivers, tributaries/ brooks that join the said rivers and such water feeding bodies as well as in these river basin valleys, created forest reserves on the sides of the aforesaid rivers; prevent the collection of waste; overlook the water pollution in rivers that occur due to human activities and identify the damages caused to rivers and the bio-diversity by the obstruction of water sources due to unauthorized construction and by certain hydroelectricity plants;
 - (j) to identify the incomplete portions of work to be carried out in the development projects related to the aforesaid rivers, which have been discontinued, and prepare the relevant proposals to carry out the said portions of work; propose where necessary suitable courses of action including a forensic audit in regard to the expenses made in the implementation of the aforesaid projects; and
 - (k) to make a deep analysis of any other development activities to be carried out, activities discontinued, unsuccessful activities related to the rivers mentioned in (i) and make suitable recommendations for carrying them out on a short-term, mid-term and long-term basis.
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 Twenty (20) 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 three months (03) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

The Speaker made the following announcement with the leave of the House:—

“A letter has been received by the Secretary-General of Parliament from Mr. Narendra Fernando, Serjeant-at-Arms, and that letter will now be read by Secretary-General of Parliament”.

Accordingly the Following letter was read by the Secretary-General of Parliament:—

"ශ්‍රී ලංකා පාර්ලිමේන්තුව,
ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර කෝට්ටේ,
2024 ජනවාරි මස 04 වැනි දින

පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ මහ ලේකම්තුමිය වෙත,
මහ ලේකම්තුමියනි,

ශ්‍රී ලංකා පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ චේත්‍රධාරී ධුරයෙන් විශ්‍රාම යාම

2018 සැප්තැම්බර් මස 01 වන දින ශ්‍රී ලංකා පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ හයවැනි චේත්‍රධාරී ලෙස පත්වූ මා එම ධුරයෙන් 2024 ජනවාරි මස 30 වැනි දින සිට ක්‍රියාත්මක වන පරිදි විශ්‍රාම යාමට නියමිත බව ඔබතුමිය වෙත ගෞරවයෙන් දන්වා සිටිමි.

1981 වසරේ අග භාගයේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ පරිපාලන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ සේවයට බැඳුණු මා සහකාර අධ්‍යක්ෂ (පරිපාලන) ධුරය දක්වා උසස්වීම් ලැබ, 2000 වසර අග භාගය දක්වා එම දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ වසර 19ක් සේවය කිරීමෙන් පසු, 2001.01.01 දින සිට සහකාර චේත්‍රධාරී ධුරයට පත්වී එම ධුරයේ වසර 06ක් ද, ඉන්පසු නියෝජ්‍ය චේත්‍රධාරී ධුරයේ වසර 12ක් ද, චේත්‍රධාරී ධුරයේ වසර පහමාරක් ද වශයෙන් වසර 23කට වැඩි කාලයක් ව්‍යවස්ථාපිතය වෙත සේවය කිරීමට ලැබීම මා ලද වරප්‍රසාදයක් මෙන්ම භාග්‍යයක් ලෙස ද සලකමි.

දශක 4කට වැඩි කාලයක් (වසර 42ක්) සේවය කර ඇති මා, දැනට පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ සිටින ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨතම නිලධාරියා මෙන්ම පැරණි හා නව පාර්ලිමේන්තුවල සේවය කිරීමේ භාග්‍යය ලත් නිලධාරියකු වීම සිහිපත් කරන්නේ නිහඬවම අඩවීමට හේතු වේ.

චේත්‍රධාරී ධුරයේ රාජකාරී ඉටු කිරීමේදී ගරු කථානායකතුමා, ගරු අග්‍රාමාත්‍යතුමා ඇතුළු කැබිනට් අමාත්‍යවරුන් සහ ගරු සභාවේ පක්ෂ සහ විපක්ෂ ගරු මන්ත්‍රීවරුන් විසින් මා වෙත ලබා දුන් සහයෝගය, සුභද්‍රැවිත්වය හා කාරුණිකභාවය පිළිබඳව මාගේ හදවිටි ගෞරවය හා ප්‍රණාමය පිරිනැමීම සඳහා මෙය අවස්ථාව කර ගැනීමට කැමැත්තෙමි.

තවද, මෙම ගරු සභාව නියෝජනය කළ හිටපු සියලුම ගරු අග්‍රාමාත්‍යවරුන්, ගරු කථානායකවරුන්, පක්ෂ විපක්ෂ පාර්ලිමේන්තු මන්ත්‍රීවරුන් වෙත ද මාගේ කෘතඥතාව පිරිනැමීමට කැමැත්තෙමි. මීට අමතරව, හිටපු ගරු ජනාධිපතිවරුන් සහ වර්තමාන ගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමා වෙත ද මාගේ ගෞරවය සහ ප්‍රණාමය පුද කර සිටිමි.

අවසාන වශයෙන් පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ වර්තමාන මහ ලේකම්තුමිය ඇතුළු සමස්ත පාර්ලිමේන්තු කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය, අනුබද්ධිත හා අනෙකුත් කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය සහ සියලුම හිටපු පාර්ලිමේන්තු මහ ලේකම්වරුන් ඇතුළුව හිටපු කාර්ය මණ්ඩල සාමාජික සාමාජිකාවන් වෙත ද මාගේ හෘදයාංගම ස්තූතිය පළ කිරීමට කැමැත්තෙමි.

මෙම උත්තරීතර ආයතනය වෙත දශක 4කට වැඩි කාලයක් වගකීමෙන් යුතු සේවයක් ඉටු කිරීමටත්, පාර්ලිමේන්තු ක්‍රමවේදයේ වැදගත් තනතුරක් වන චේත්‍රධාරී ධුරය හෙබැවීමටත් මා හට අවස්ථාව ලැබීම, මා ලද වරප්‍රසාදයක් මෙන්ම ගෞරවයක් ලෙසත් සලකමි.

මිවිසින්, චේත්‍රධාරී ධුරය හෙබැවූ කාලවකවානුව තුළ ඉතා සංකීර්ණ හා සංවේදී කාලවකවානුවක් වූ අතර, එහිදී මුහුණ දුන් අභියෝගයන් හා සංවේදී සිදුවීම් ඉදිරියේ නොබියව, සෘජුව කටයුතු කරමින් එම තත්ත්වයන් සමනය කර ගැනීමට කටයුතු කළ ආකාරය පිළිබඳ මතකය සදා ස්මරණීය බවද ඔබතුමිය වෙත ප්‍රකාශ කරනු කැමැත්තෙමි.

මෙයට විස්වාසී,
නරේන්ද්‍ර ප්‍රනාන්දු
චේත්‍රධාරී"

17. Vote of Appreciation of Service - Serjeant-at-Arms : This House appreciates the excellent service rendered to the Parliament of Sri Lanka by Mr. Narendra Fernando, who retires as Serjeant-at-Arms on 30th January 2024, having joined the Administration Department of the Parliament and received promotions up to the rank of Assistant Director (Administration) and having served thereafter as Assistant Serjeant-at-Arms for six years, as Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms for twelve years and Serjeant-at-Arms for five and a half years totaling 42 years of service and this Parliament felicitates him on the occasion of his retirement.

Question put, and unanimously agreed to, *nemine contradicente*.

And it being past 6.00 p.m. Parliament was at 7.41 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 06, 2024.