



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 2.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 08, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration,
Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and
Minister of Mass Media

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

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law, Minister of Education and
Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and Chief
Government Whip

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, Minister of Wildlife
and Forest Resources Conservation and Minister of Irrigation

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Non Cabinet Minister of State Plantation
Enterprises Reforms and State Minister of Finance

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

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

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

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education
Hon. 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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries and Mahaweli Development
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Supply
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils, Local Government and Environment
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
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. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
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. 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. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

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. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroschan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilake
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. Marjan Faleel

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularathne, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Official Oath or Affirmation by new Members : Hon. L. K. Jagath Priyankara, Member of Parliament for Puttalam Electoral District, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Book at the Table.

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

I

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled ‘The Recognition and Enforcement of International Settlement Agreements Resulting From Mediation’ and ‘Notaries (Amendment)’ on 31 January 2024 and ‘National Hydrographic’, ‘Contempt of a Court, Tribunal or Institution’ and ‘Online Safety’ on 1 February 2024.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of another six 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 and the eighteen petitions mentioned in my announcement dated 23 January 2024 and 24 January 2024 respectively.”

III

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have nominated the following Members of Parliament to serve in the Panel of Chairs for the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament, in terms of Standing Order 143 of the Parliament:—

Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Imran Maharoof

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

Hon. Hesha Withanage

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
 Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
 Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
 Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
 Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
 Hon. Samanpriya Herath
 Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
 Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama”

IV

“It is with profound regret that I inform this Parliament of the untimely passing away of the Hon. Sanath Nishantha, Member of Parliament of Puttalam District. On behalf of Parliament, I would like to convey that we are deeply saddened by his sudden demise and would like to express our heartfelt sympathies to the family of the Honourable Member.

The vote of condolence in this regard will be presented to Parliament on a future date.”

V

“I wish to inform Parliament that Mr. Adhikaramge Kushan Sampath Jayaratne, Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms, has been appointed to the post of Serjeant-at-Arms of the Parliament of Sri Lanka with effect from the 31st of January 2024.”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the Lanka Sugar Company (Private) Limited for the years 2018 and 2019 and moved that the Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and
- (ii) Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Environment in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No.2366/19 of 11th January 2024 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2369/58 of 03rd February 2024 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979

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

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Construction Industry Development Authority for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Condominium Management Authority for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation 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 Warehouse Facilities, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats and Shipping Industry Development in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that those Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Engineering Council, Sri Lanka for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 80 read with Section 77A(6) of the Poison, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2360/21 of 27th November 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the relevant Ministerial Consultative Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency for the year 2022 and moved that the Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2020 and moved that the Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd of the Ministry of Power and Energy in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Sittings of the Parliament : 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 5.30 p.m.. At 9.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Committee of Selection (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 114 of the Parliament, the Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and twelve (12) Members which shall include the Leaders of Political Parties or their nominees to be nominated by Parliament to serve during the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Committee of Selection (No.2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament this day, the undermentioned Members do serve in the Committee of Selection during the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament:—

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law

Hon. Douglas Devananda

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law

Hon. Johnston Fernando

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. Gamini Lokuge

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment (Policy Statement made by the Hon. President at the Inauguration of Fifth Session of Ninth Parliament) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 10.45 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.55 a.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.12 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

(At 1.24 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.35 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation and Minister of Irrigation moved,— That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.31 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

Debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Friday, February 09, 2024.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, February 09, 2024.