



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 14.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, April 01, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair 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. Jeevan Thondaman, Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure
Development

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

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. 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. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and
Youth Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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

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

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs

Hon. 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. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion

Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises
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. 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. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law

Hon. Faizal Cassim

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law

Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda, Attorney at Law

Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara

Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

Hon. Mano Ganesan

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila

Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. C. Muthukumarana
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka

Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

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

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

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



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

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

March 22, 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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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

I

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Saweera Foundation (Incorporation)’ Bill:—

Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda”

II

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Penal Code (Amendment)’ Bill :-

Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga”

III

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for consideration of the Bill titled ‘Kelaniya Buddhist Women’s Charitable Society (Incorporation)’:-

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Gayantha Karunathileka
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake”

IV

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Samadhi Health Service, Environment, Agricultural, Cultural and Sport Centre (Incorporation) Bill’:-

Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka”

V

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Samadhi Meditation and Yoga Centre (Incorporation)’ Bill:-

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Rohana Bandara”

VI

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Member of Parliament has also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Ways and Means, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 124 of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024.”

VII

“The question of privilege raised by the Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara, M.P. in Parliament on 20 November 2023 has been referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

VIII

“The question of privilege raised by the Hon. Rohana Bandara, M.P. in Parliament on 09 February 2024 has been referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

IX

“The question of privilege raised by the Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, M.P. in Parliament on 21 February 2024 has been referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

X

“The question of privilege raised by the Hon. Sajith Premadasa, M.P. in Parliament on 20 November 2023 has been referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

3. Presentation of Papers: (1) : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Reports of the Judicial Service Commission Secretariat for the years 2020 and 2021 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

(i) Annual Report of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka for the year 2022; and

(ii) Annual Report of the Disaster Management Centre for the year 2022

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

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. 2373/28 of 28th February 2024 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the —

(i) Annual Report of the University of Colombo for the year 2022;

(ii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine of the University of Colombo for the year 2022;

(iii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of Science of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2022;

(iv) Annual Report of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2022; and

(v) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission for the year 2022

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Selacine Television Institute for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Coconut Cultivation Board for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Office for Reparations for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Industries and the Minister of Health presented the Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporations of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Hindu Cultural Fund for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Public Security under Section 52 read with Sections 14 and 23 of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, (Chapter 351) on 22nd March 2024 and moved that the those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited for the year 2021/2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs presented the Report of the Committee on Orders made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs under Section 4 of the Diplomatic Privileges Act, No.9 of 1996 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2348/48 of 08th September 2023 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means presented the Second Report of the Committee on Ways and Means for the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

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

- (i) Regulations under Imports and Exports (Control) Act No. 1 of 1969; and
- (ii) Banking (Amendment) Bill

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 01.11.2023 from Mrs. W.G.N. Sarojini Serasingha of No.324/25, Haloya, Hidagala.
- (2) Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 07.08.2023 from Mr. Ariyadasa Godagama of Dehennagewatta, Aluth Ihala, Mapalagama (Central); and
 - (ii) A petition dated 30.10.2023 from Mr. K.M. Lakshaman of No. 12/1A, Raymond Road, Nugegoda.
- (3) Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara presented a petition dated 26.08.2023 from Mr. W.A. Jayasena of Meda Pihimbiya,, Pihimbiya,, Rathmale,, Hettipola..
- (4) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented a petition dated 10.11.2023 from Mr. S.A. Kumarasingha of No. 76, Kalukondayawa, Malwana.
- (5) Hon. Hesha Withanage presented a petition dated 14.11.2023 from Mr. M.B. Nawarathna of Rathna House, Halmillaketiya School Road, Thunkama, Ambilipitiya.

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

6. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—
That the proceedings on Item No.1 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.

7. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—
That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 21st March 2024, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 4.30 p.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.

8. Select Committee of Parliament to look into and report to Parliament its recommendations to ensure gender equity and equality with special emphasis on looking into gender based discriminations and violations of women's rights in Sri Lanka: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to look into and report to Parliament its recommendations to ensure gender equity and equality with special emphasis on looking into gender based discriminations and violations of women's rights in Sri Lanka, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 21 March 2023 be extended up to 05 October 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament, as the Committee needs further time to consider and report its observations of the Interim Report to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 10 January 2024 be extended up to 27 July 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.12 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

10. Regulations under the Ayurveda Act: The Minister of Industries and Minister of Health moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Health under Section 82 read with Sections 7(g), 10 and 77 and Part VI of the Ayurveda Act, No. 31 of 1961 regarding the Ayurveda Code on 24th January 2024, which were presented on 19.03.2024, be approved.

The State Minister of Health moved,— That Hon. Imran Maharroof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.02 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharroof took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Indigenous Medicine moved,—That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.36 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Indigenous Medicine moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.23 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 4.18 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

11. International Institute of Theravadha (Incorporation) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

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

12. Adjournment (Proper Functioning of Independent Commissions Established under the Constitution): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.43 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

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

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 02, 2024, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 21st March 2024.