



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 13.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, March 22, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

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

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

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. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

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

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

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of
Agriculture

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion

Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education

Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils, Local
Government and Environment

Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan 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. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
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. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
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. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker: The Deputy Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. Kins Nelson, Member of Parliament has been nominated by the Hon. Speaker to serve in the Panel of Chairs in addition to the Members of Parliament nominated at present for the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament, in terms of the Standing Order 143 of the Parliament.”

II

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 113 :—

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney-at-Law
Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney-at-Law
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney-at-Law
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney-at-Law
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney-at-Law
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney-at-Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC”

III

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Standing Orders in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 116 :—

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena”

IV

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the House Committee in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 117 :—

Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake”

V

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Finance in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 121 :—

Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara”

VI

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Banking and Financial Services in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 122 :—

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara”

VII

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Economic Stabilization in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 123 :—

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dhammika Perera

Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. M. Rameshwaran”

VIII

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Backbencher Committee in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 129 :—

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka

Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake”

IX

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 112 :—

Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Sudath Manjula”

X

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024 notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 112 :—

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that Report 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 Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority for the year 2022 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117(2)(r) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 relating to the charges to be paid by aircraft flying over the Colombo Flight Information Region for the use of air navigation facilities and services provided by Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2362/23 of 12th December 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund for the year 2021.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department of Ayurveda for the year 2022 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation 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.

3. Presentation of Reports under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament on the Bill entitled “International Institute of Theravadha (Incorporation)” of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Monday, April 01, 2024.

4. Presentation of Committee Reports: (1) Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health presented the Report of the Committee on 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 referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment – 2022; and
- (ii) Performance Report of Department of Probation and Child Care Services - 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Vijitha Herath presented —

- (i) A petition dated 14.12.2023 from Mrs. D.V. Munasingha of No. 84/14, Galahitiyawa Road, Siyambalape South;
- (ii) A petition dated 01.12.2023 from Mrs. K.M. Hettiarachchi of No. 600/3, Thalgaswala Road, Thuduwegedara, Ragama;
- (iii) A petition dated 18.12.2023 from Mrs. P. D. A. Munasinghe of No. 58/5 B, Lewella Road, Kandy;
- (iv) A petition dated 14.12.2023 from Mr. S.P. Wickramathunga of No. 325/G, Ekamuthu Mawatha, Koswatta, Battaramulla; and
- (v) A petition dated 27.10.2023 from Mrs. W.H. Mallika Kanthi of 'Nathasha', Medaperuwa, Heel Oya, Bandarawela.

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera presented a petition dated 01.02.2024 from Mrs. K.M.K.G.S. Ketimingama of No. 236/6, Siriniwasa Mawatha, Mulleriyawa North, Mulleriyawa New town.

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

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1): The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of 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 6.00 p.m.. At 12.30 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.

7. Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties in relation to preparation for the proposed ‘Business Ready (B-READY) Index’ in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties in relation to preparation for the proposed ‘Business Ready (B-READY) Index’ in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 12th January 2024 be extended up to 22nd June 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.

8. Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate Causes for Financial Bankruptcy declared by the Government and to Report to Parliament and Submit its Proposals and Recommendations in this regard: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate Causes for Financial Bankruptcy declared by the Government and to Report to Parliament and Submit its Proposals and Recommendations in this regard, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 12th January 2024 be extended up to 18 of 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.

9. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2): The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Monday, April 01st, 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Votes of Condolence: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved the Votes of Condolence on the late Hon. R. M. Karunaratne, late Hon. Bandula Basnayake and late Hon. (Dr.) P. M. B. Cyril ex-Members of Parliament.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 9.58 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Finance moved,—That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.09 a.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

The Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, seconded by the Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe moved,— That Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.57 a.m. Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera took the Chair.)

The Presiding Member announced that the Speaker and himself associated together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of, the late Hon. R. M. Karunaratne, the late Bandula Basnayake and the late Hon. (Dr.) P. M. B. Cyril, ex-Members of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send copies of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of their bereaved families.

11. Adjournment (Relief for Common Issues Confronted by Farmers): The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,—That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,—That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.25 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Livestock Development moved,—That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.56 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.52 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Monday, April 01, 2024, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 21st of March, 2024.