



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 9.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, March 07, 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. (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. 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. (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. (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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
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. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
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. 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 and Mahaweli Development
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. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
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. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

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. Selvarajah Kajendren
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. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
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. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
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. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. S. C. Muthukumarana
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman

Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilake
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. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mr. Chaminda Kularathne, Acting Secretary-General of Parliament
Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the People's Bank for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Lotteries Board for the year 2022

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education 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. 2370/15 of 07th February 2024 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture University of Peradeniya for the year 2022 and moved that those Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Reports 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 Transport and the Institutions coming under its purview in the reports of the Committee on Public Accounts which were presented to Parliament and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Lands and the Institutions coming under its purview 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.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that those Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Power and Energy presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Power and Energy under Section 7 read with Sections 5 and 6 on the advice and recommendation of the Committee appointed under Section 3 of the Petroleum Products (Special Provisions) Act, No. 33 of 2002 regarding Licensing of Petroleum Products and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2340/02 of 10th July 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender presented the Report of the said Committee on Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Report of Ranaviru Sewa Authority of Sri Lanka for year 2022 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Performance Report of Department of Forest Conservation for the year 2022 which was referred to the Committee.

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

(4) The Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2021;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Urban Development Authority for the year 2019; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department for the year 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. 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 5.30 p.m.. At 10.30 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.

4. 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, March 19th, 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Adjournment (Prevention of Damage Caused to Crops by Wild Animals): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed and debated.

(At 10.59 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.08 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka, seconded by Hon. Isuru Dodangoda moved,— That Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.20 p.m. the Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana took the Chair.)

Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, seconded by Hon. Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.19 p.m. the Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake, seconded by Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.15 p.m. the Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; At 5.20 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.