



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 7.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, March 05, 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. 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. (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. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, Minister of Wildlife
and Forest Resources Conservation and Minister of Irrigation

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, 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. 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. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara, State Minister of Ports and Aviation
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. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
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. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
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. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
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. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara 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. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
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. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. S. C. Muthukumarana
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilake
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
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. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

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. Official Oath or Affirmation by new Member: Hon. S. C. Muthukumarana, Member of Parliament in Anuradhapura Electoral District, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Book at the Table.

2. 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

February 21, 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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Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

3. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have appointed the following Members of Parliament under the Chair of the Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law to serve on the Select Committee of Parliament to carry out an in-depth investigation into the issues that have arisen related to the Nilwala river and other water bodies in Matara District and to make recommendations for the development of a set of new reconstruction proposals:—

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law

Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. Hesha Withanage

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva

Hon. Isuru Dodangoda

Hon. Kins Nelson

Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe”

4. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

(i) Annual Report of the Rakna Arakshaka Lanka Ltd for the year 2020/2021; and

(ii) Annual Report and Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the year 2022.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Technology under Section 24 read with Section 8(2) of the Electronic Transactions Act, No. 19 of 2006 read with Article 44(3) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2311/40 of 22nd December 2022 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) 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 Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) 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) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2373/59 of 03rd March 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 Education presented the—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka for the year 2022; and

(ii) Annual Report of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka for the year 2022.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) 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 Parliament of Sri Lanka 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.

(7) The Minister of Education presented the Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Sections 21 and 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Economics and Statistics of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2326/11 of 03rd April 2023.

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

(8) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Independent Television Network Limited 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.

(9) The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries presented the Annual Report of the Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Limited for the year 2020/2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Tourism and Lands under Section 67 of the Registration of Title Act, No. 21 of 1998 relating to Registrations of Title and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2308/27 of 01st December 2022 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Enterprise Development Authority for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans .

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) 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 Institutions under the Ministry of Industries 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.

(13) The Minister of Power and Energy presented the—

(i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority for the year 2021; and

(ii) Annual Report of the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

(i) Annual Report of the Kurunegala Plantations Limited for the year 2020;
and

(ii) Annual Report of the Chilaw Plantations Limited 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.

5. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

(i) Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill; and

(ii) Social Security Contribution Levy (Amendment) Bill

which were referred to the Committee.

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

6. Penal Code (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,—“Bill to amend the Penal Code (Chapter 19).”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

7. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,— “Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society .

8. 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 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.

9. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Buddha Shrawaka Caring Centre.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Education for report.

10. Secured Transactions Bill: Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (20th February 2024)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

(At 12.43 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.03 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana seconded by Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake moved,— That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.05 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, March 06, 2024.

11. Trust Receipts (Amendment) Bill : Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (20th February 2024)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

The Minister of Education moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, March 06, 2024.

12. Mortgage (Amendment) Bill: Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (20th February 2024)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

The Minister of Education moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, March 06, 2024.

13. Finance Leasing (Amendment) Bill: Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (20th February 2024)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

The Minister of Education moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, March 06, 2024.

14. Inland Trust Receipts (Amendment) Bill: Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (20th February 2024)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

The Minister of Education moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, March 06, 2024.

15. Companies (Amendment) Bill: Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (20th February 2024)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

The Minister of Education moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, March 06, 2024.

16. Registration of Documents (Amendment) Bill: Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (20th February 2024)

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

The Minister of Education moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, March 06, 2024.

17. Annual Report of the CeyNor Foundation Limited (2018),— The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report of the CeyNor Foundation Limited for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 17.01.2023 under Section 131 of the Company Act, No. 07 of 2007, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

18. Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation - (CFHC) (2019),— The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation - (CFHC) for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 30.11.2022 under Section 30(1) of the State Industrial Corporations Act, No. 49 of 1957, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

19. Annual Report of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (2020),— The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 24.03.2023 under the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka Act, No. 53 of 1998, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

20. Adjournment (Registration of Motorcycles with Engine Capacity between 450cc and 1300cc) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.02 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 06, 2024.