



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 8.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, March 06, 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. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

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. (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. (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 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. (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. 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. 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. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education

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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance

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

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

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. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
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
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
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. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
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. (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 Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
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. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. Kumara Welgama

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

I

“I table in all three languages the lists of names of the members appointed to serve in the following Committees during the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament as per the motions agreed to by Parliament on 09th February 2024:—

- i) Committee on Ethics and Privileges;
- ii) Committee on Public Accounts;
- iii) Committee on Public Enterprises;
- iv) Committee on Public Petitions;
- v) Legislative Standing Committee;
- vi) Committee on Standing Orders;

- vii) House Committee;
- viii) Back Bencher Committee;
- ix) Committee on Banking and Financial Services;
- x) Committee on Economic Stabilization;
- xi) Committee on Ways and Means;
- xii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence;
- xiii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies;
- xiv) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment;
- xv) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Investment Promotion;
- xvi) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education;
- xvii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media;
- xviii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health;
- xix) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Plantation Industries;
- xx) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation;
- xxi) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms;
- xxii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries;
- xxiii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing;
- xxiv) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs;
- xxv) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs;
- xxvi) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy;
- xxvii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment;
- xxviii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs;
- xxix) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation;
- xxx) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour and Foreign Employment;
- xxxi) Ministerial Consultative Committee on State Plantation Enterprises Reforms;
- xxxii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries;
- xxxiii) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security;
- xxxiv) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology;
- xxxv) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development; and
- xxxvi) Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation”

II

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 118 of Parliament:—

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney-at-Law
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya”

III

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Public Accounts, in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 119 of Parliament:—

Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Ashok Abeyasinghe
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya”

IV

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Public Enterprise, in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 120 of Parliament:—

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney-at-Law
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. S. M. Marikkar

Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath”

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 Petitions, in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 125 of Parliament:—

Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa”

VI

“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 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 113 of Parliament:—

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Imran Maharroof”

VII

“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 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 116 of Parliament:—

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera”

VIII

“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 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 117 of Parliament:—

Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson”

IX

“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 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 129 of Parliament:—

Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilake
Hon. Jagath Priyankara”

X

“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 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 122 of Parliament:—

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran”

XI

“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 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 123 of Parliament:—

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Waruna Liyanage”

XII

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Ways and Means, in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09th February 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 124 of Parliament:—

Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney-at-Law”

XIII

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

1. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

2. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies

Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

3. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Imran Maharroof

4. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Jagath Priyankara

5. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation

Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hesha Withanage

6. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Investment Promotion

Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne

7. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries

Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

8. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
9. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
10. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Faizal Cassim
11. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney-At-Law
12. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
13. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney-At-Law
14. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney-At-Law
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
15. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
16. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
17. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

18. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera

19. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney-At-Law

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

20. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

21. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. Hesha Withanage

22. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena

Hon. Rohana Bandara

23. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour and Foreign Employment

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Palani Thigambaram

24. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

25. Ministerial Consultative Committee on State Plantation Enterprises Reforms

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera”

XIV

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have appointed the following Members of Parliament under the Chair of the Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, to serve on the “Select Committee of Parliament to make recommendations for the Review and Reform of Legal Education in Sri Lanka”:—

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law”

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Lady Lochore Loan Fund for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Employees’ Trust Fund Board for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon 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 Annual Report of the National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Alleviating the Impact of the Economic Crisis.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) 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 Judges of the Superior Courts in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and move that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Mineral Sands Limited for the year 2020 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs present the Annual Reports of the Buddhasasana Fund for the years 2018 and 2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) 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 Public Security in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the Janatha Estates Development Board for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

(i) Order under Section 2A of Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002 as amended by Act, No. 6 of 2005; and

(ii) Secured Transactions Bill (Reconsideration)

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 10 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.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the parliamentary service of the Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem should be suspended for a period of one month from today i.e. 6th of March 2024, in terms of the recommendations of the report which was presented to the Parliament on 24th of January 2024 by the Chairman of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, the Hon. Chamal Rajapaksha, after consideration of the matter, raised in the Parliament on 25.08.2023 that the privileges of the Parliament and the Members of the Parliament have been violated due to the misconduct of the Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem, the Member of Parliament, which was referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the Standing Order 118 as per the resolution passed by the Parliament on 06.09.2023.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. 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 12.38 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Mass Media moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.02 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion moved,— That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.13 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

(At 4.45 p.m. Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 15 were agreed to.

Clause 16

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“ 16.(1) The Minister shall”; and

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 25 and 26 in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“ (4) The Minister may, for reasons assigned therefor, remove from office the”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 17 to 76 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

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

“That the Bill accordingly be now read a Second Time”, question again proposed; and debate resumed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

9. 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

10. 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

11. 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 6 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

12. 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 10 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

13. Social Security Contribution Levy (Amendment) Bill:— Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 to 26 (both inclusive) in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“enactment”) is hereby amended by the repeal of subsection (1) thereof and the substitution therefor, of the following:-

“4.(1) Every taxable person, other than a taxable person referred to in paragraph (a) of section 2, who, carries on or carries out any activity referred to in section 2 (in this Act referred to as a “taxable activity”) shall be required to be registered under this Act by making an application for such purpose to the Commissioner-General of Inland Revenue (in this Act referred to as the “Commissioner-General”) in the specified form-

- (a) not later than fifteen days from the date of operation of this Act, in the case of a taxable person whose aggregate of the turnover, within the twelve months period immediately prior to the date of operation of this Act, exceeded one hundred and twenty million rupees;
- (b) for any quarter commencing prior to January 1, 2024, not later than fifteen days from the date on which the aggregate of the turnover for a quarter exceeds or likely to exceed thirty million rupees, in the case of a taxable person to whom paragraph (a) does not apply;
- (c) for any period commencing on or after January 1, 2024, not later than fifteen days from the date on which the aggregate of the turnover for a quarter exceeds or likely to exceed fifteen million rupees or from the date on which the aggregate of the turnover for a period of consecutive four quarters exceeds or likely to exceed sixty million rupees:

Provided that, a taxable person to whom paragraph (c) applies shall be deemed to have complied with the requirement of registration under this subsection, if such person makes an application for such purpose to the Commissioner-General in the specified form not later than fifteen days from the date of operation of this (Amendment) Act.”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

14. Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill:— Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Bill, accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to.

Clause 3

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 6 in page 3:—

“(3) in the third proviso to that subsection, by the substitution for the words “comes into operation.” of the following:—

“comes into operation:

Provided further, for the purposes of paragraph (viii), the requirement for the registration shall arise from the date on which this (Amendment) Act comes into operation.”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 4 was agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

15. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That this Parliament resolves that 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, which was presented on 05.03.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Adjournment (A Transparent Programme for Providing Decentralized Funds): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.52 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, March 07, 2024.