



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 17.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, April 25, 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. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and
Minister of Mass Media

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

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. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, 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. 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. 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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
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. 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. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils, Local Government and Environment
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
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, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Weerasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyanara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
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. (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. S. C. Muthukumarana
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha 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 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

April 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

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

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2360/52 of 30th November 2023;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2365/04 of 02nd January 2024;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2365/84 of 07th January 2024;
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2372/06 of 19th February 2024;
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2373/42 of 01st March 2024;
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2365/50 of 04th January 2024; and
- (vii) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2365/51 of 04th January 2024)

and moved that the Orders and the Resolution be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Urban Settlement Development Authority for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the Land Survey Council for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 and moved that the Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Committee Reports: (1) Hon. Akila Ellawela, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Tiran Alles, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security presented the Report of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security on 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 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Harsha De Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on—

- (i) Order under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No.13 of 1989;
- (ii) Notification under Excise Ordinance (No. 3/2023); and
- (iii) Notification under Excise Ordinance (No. 4/2023)

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya presented —

- (i) A petition dated 15.01.2024 from Mr. Athula Jayasekara of No. 69, Green View, Meepawala, Poddala;
- (ii) A petition dated 20.01.2024 from Mr. H.M.S.N.K. Karunarathna of Halgahakotuwa, Mahawila Road, Yatiyantota;
- (iii) A petition dated 21.01.2024 from Mr. K. Tyron Godfree of C 140, Kegalla Road, Alawathura;
- (iv) A petition dated 22.10.2023 from Mrs. K.G.G.K. Senanayake of D/31/A, Pahalawatta, Malawita, Hettimulla;
- (v) A petition dated 17.12.2023 from Mrs. R.M.C.K. Rathnayaka of No. A/63, Egodawatta, Kotawella, Nelundeniya; and
- (vi) A petition dated 04.01.2024 from Mr. S.M. Rathnapala of C 22/1, Ihala watta, Medagama, Ganthuna.

(2) Hon. Vijitha Berugoda presented a petition dated 15.11.2023 from Mrs. S.W.C. Hemalatha of No. 166, Palipana, Pujapitiya.

(3) Hon. Siripala Gamalath presented a petition dated 08.10.2023 from Mrs. H.M. Lanka Rajini Wijethilaka of No. 05, Yodha Ela, Hingurakgoda.

(4) Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara presented a petition dated 17.05.2023 from Mr. H. Chaminda Kumara of No. 115/B, Jayasiri Stores, Hathgampola, Hemmathagama.

(5) Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake presented a petition dated 08.01.2024 from Mrs. B.D.D. Perera of No. 03/A, Manahara Uyana, Horana Rd, Mahavila, Panadura.

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

5. Leave of Absence: The Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law, seconded by the Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan moved,— That the Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, Member of Parliament for Trincomalee Electoral district be granted leave under Article 66(f) of the Constitution to be absent from the sittings of Parliament for a period of three months from April 25th, 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Sri Lanka Electricity: The Minister of Power and Energy presented,— Bill to provide for the implementation of reforms to the electricity industry; to provide for the establishment of the National Electricity Advisory Council; to provide for the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, established under the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 35 of 2002 to be the regulator for the electricity industry in terms of this Act; to provide legislative measures applicable to the incorporation of corporate entities under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 in whom all activities connected to the generation, transmission, distribution, trade, supply and procurement of electricity shall vest; to specify the processes to be applicable to all related activities; to repeal the Ceylon Electricity Board Act, No. 17 of 1969 and the Sri Lanka Electricity Act, No. 20 of 2009 and to provide for all matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, May 09, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Power and Energy.

7. 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 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.

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

9. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1): Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie, seconded by Hon. H. M. M. Harees moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Al Falah Foundation.”

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. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2): Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.”

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 Fisheries for report.

(At 10.25 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

11. The Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No. 1): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 read with Part VII of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203), and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2338/39 of 28th June 2023, which were presented on 24.01.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No. 2): The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Highways under Section 237 read with Sections 21, 22, 23, 24 and 24A of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203), and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2352/29 of 05th October 2023, which were presented on 24.01.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Notification under Excise Ordinance (No. 1) : The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved, — That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 22 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise Duty on Liquor, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2364/35 of 31st December 2023, which was presented on 02.04.2024, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 04/2023)

Question put, and agreed to.

14 . Order under Excise (Special Provisions) Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2364/36 of 31st December 2023, which was presented on 02.04.2024, be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

15. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act: The Minister of Education on behalf 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. 2380/32 of 19th April 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 24.04.2024, be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

16. Adjournment (Delay in Uncovering Truth behind Easter Sunday Attack and Providing Justice to Victims): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (24th April, 2024)

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

The Minister of foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yappabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 12.12. p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yappabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation industries and Minister of Health moved,— That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 2.11. p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Musharraf, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilake, seconded by Hon. Eran Wickramaratne moved,— That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.28 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Leader of the House of the Parliament moved that the debate be now adjourned.

Question put and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed on Friday, April 26, 2023.

Question put, and agreed to; accordingly the Parliament was at 5.16 pm. adjourned until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2024.