



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 18.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, April 26, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

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

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Industries and Minister of Health

Hon. Nalin Fernando, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and
Youth Affairs

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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
Affairs

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe, State Minister of Women and
Child Affairs

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. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy

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. 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. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. Tissa Attanayake
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. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
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, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Weerasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
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. Duminda Dissanayake
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. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharroof
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. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
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. 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. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
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. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

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. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Deputy Speaker presented the Special Audit Report on the Management/ Administration of Various Funds in Sri Lanka Customs in the Tenth Installment – Part VIII of the Report of the Auditor General in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Economic Review and Financial Statements and Operations of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) 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 Office of the Leader of the House of Parliament 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.

4) Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Committee Reports:(1) Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee presented the Report of the said Committee on the Bill entitled, “Pavithra Wanniarachchi Sahurda Foundation (Incorporation)” together with the Minutes of proceedings.

Bill, as reported by Legislative Standing Committee, to be considered on Tuesday, the 07th of May 2024.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 26.09.2023 from Mr. S.H.D. Jagath Panditha of No. 157/26, Bangalawatta, Hapugala, Wakwella.
- (2) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 09.01.2024 from Mrs. Badra Egodawitharana of No. 225 D 3, Ratalankawatta (Kopiwatta), Mapalana, Kamburupitiya;
 - (ii) A petition dated 21.11.2023 from Mrs. H.B. Mallika of Baalagewatta, Kirimatimulla, Thelijjavila;
 - (iii) A petition dated 01.12.2023 from Mrs. H.M. Niluka Samali Herath of Walewatta, Thalalla South, Gandara;
 - (iv) A petition dated 07.02.2024 from Mr. H.P. Nomis of Bathalahena, Komangoda, Thihagoda;
 - (v) A petition dated 21.11.2023 from Mrs. K.H. Chandralatha of Baalagewatta, Kirimatimulla, Thelijjavila;
 - (vi) A petition dated 21.11.2023 from Mr. K.P.G. Karunarathna of No. 176/1, Madiligama, Menikdiwela;
 - (vii) A petition dated 07.02.2024 from Mr. M. Piyasena of 'Sudari Sewana', Akkara 50, Yatiyana;
 - (viii) A petition dated 03.01.2024 from Mrs. N.G. Somawathi of 'Thiththala Mulla', Kodikaragoda, Morawaka;
 - (ix) A petition dated 07.02.2024 from Mrs. Nandani Munasinghe of 'Tharumini', Udaha Kongalawatta, Batuwita, Thihagoda; and
 - (x) A petition dated 21.11.2023 from Mrs. S.K. Inoka Thushari of 'Sandeepa', Undupiyaliya Watta, Walgama Meda, Matara.
- (3) Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya presented a petition dated 27.09.2023 from Mrs. B.M. Indrani Gunarathna of Pitawatta, Kahaththewela, Bandarawela.

(4) Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena presented —

- (i) A petition dated 12.12.2023 from Mr. A.R. Angammana of No. 08, Sri Pada Mawatha, Rathnapura; and
- (ii) A petition dated 22.02.2024 from Mrs. M.G. Somalatha of No. 387/3, Wanduruppa Road, Ambalantota.

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

4. Leave of Absence: The Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law, seconded by the Hon. Selvarajah Kajendiren moved,— That the Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam, Member of Parliament for Jaffna Electoral district be granted leave under the Article 66(f) of the Constitution to be absent from the sittings of Parliament for a period of three months from April 26th, 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Public Debt Management: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to provide for Public Debt Management including the authorization to borrow, to issue and to service public debt for the Government and issuing guarantees, on-lending, enter into suppliers' credit and financial lease agreements; for the establishment of the Public Debt Management Office and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Friday, May 10, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

6. 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 10.00 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.

7. Regulations under Immigrants and Emigrants Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Public Security moved,— That the 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 presented on 01.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. 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 Education moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

At 11.34. a.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, seconded by Hon. J.C. Alawathuwela moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs) Harini Amarasekiriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.18 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs) Harini Amarasekiriya took the Chair.)

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, seconded by Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka moved,— That Hon. K.P.S.Kumarasiri do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.06 p.m. Hon. K.P.S.Kumarasiri took the Chair.)

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

Question put and agreed to.

(At 3.28 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

(At 4.42 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.11 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 07, 2024.