



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 19.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, May 07, 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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. Jeevan Thondaman, Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure
Development

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. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, 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 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. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Health

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. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy
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. 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. 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. 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. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

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. 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. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Weerasena Gamage
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. 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. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. 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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
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. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
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. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
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. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. H. M. M. Harees

Hon. Abdul Haleem

Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Jayarathna Herath

Hon. Samanpriya Herath

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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

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

I

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Honourable Speaker has endorsed the certificate on the Bill titled ‘Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment)’ on 03rd May 2024.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Honourable Speaker has received copies of three petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Sri Lanka Electricity’”.

III

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, the Honourable Speaker has nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Chiththa Advanced Psychological Studies Open Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill’:-

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola
 Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
 Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
 Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
 Hon. Kins Nelson
 Hon. Rohana Bandara
 Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
 Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake”

2. Presentation of Papers: The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XLII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (ii) Second Installment – Parts LI and LII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021; and
- (iii) Second Installment – Parts XLV and XLVI and Ninth Installment – Part XXIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Child Protection Authority for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented—

- (i) Regulation made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 123(8) of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017, as amended by the Inland Revenue (Amendment) Act, No. 4 of 2023 relating to the Information to be Shared on a Regular Basis to the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2376/25 of 21st March 2024; and

- (ii) 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. 2379/03 of 08th April 2024

and moved that said Regulations referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Development Activities Programme appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.03.2024 to 04.04.2024 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 34 of 2023.

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

- (5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the CeyNor Foundation Limited for the year 2019 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Plantation Management for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau for the year 2022 moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law on behalf of Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee presented the Report of the Legislative Standing Committee on the Bill titled, "International Institute of Theravadha (Incorporation)" together with the Minutes of proceedings.

The Bill as reported by the Legislative Standing Committee to be considered on Wednesday, the 08th May 2024.

- (2) Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law on behalf of Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee presented the Report of the Legislative Standing Committee on the Bill titled, "Saweera Foundation (Incorporation)" (Incorporation)" together with the Minutes of proceedings.

The Bill as reported by the Legislative Standing Committee to be considered on Wednesday, the 08th May 2024.

(3) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on the—

- (i) Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017;
- (ii) Orders under Finance Act No. 25 of 2003;
- (iii) Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Bill;
- (iv) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (v) Regulations under the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 19 of 2021; and
- (vi) Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa presented a petition dated 17.07.2023 from Mr. M. Sujeewa Kumara of No. 136, Near Minikirula Temple, Thelawilla, Suriyawewa.
- (2) Hon. Kins Nelson presented a petition dated 02.01.2024 from Mr. Amarawansa Gamage of No. 27, 'Menusha', Girithale Road, Diyabeduma, Polonnaruwa.

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. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera moved,— That the Hon. Kumara Welgama, Member of Parliament for Kalutara 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 May 07th, 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Women Empowerment: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment presented,— Bill to make provisions for the Empowerment of Women; to provide for the formulation and implementation of the national policy on advancement and Empowerment of Women; to establish a National Commission on Women; to establish mechanisms for the protection of women's rights and to prosecute against the violations of such rights; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender.

7. Leave to introduce Bill,— Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, seconded by Hon. Govinthan Karunakaran moved, that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:— “Bill to amend the Employees’ Provident Fund Act, No. 15 of 1958”

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 Labour and Foreign Employment for report.

8. Partition (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved that the be now read a second time.

The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.27 a.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs moved,—That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.13 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.37 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

(At 4.41 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 were agreed to.

Clause 6

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 14 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“to “a list filed as aforesaid.” of the words-”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 18 to 24 (both inclusive) in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“ court a list of documents on which he relies to prove his rights, share or interest to, of or in the land together with an abstract of the contents of such documents and a list of witnesses. Where a party is allowed to intervene after the date first fixed for trial, such party shall file a list of documents or a list of witnesses within thirty days of such intervention. No party shall, except with the leave of the court which may be granted on such term as the court may determine, be permitted to put any document or witness in evidence on his behalf in the action if that document or witness is not listed in the lists filed as aforesaid.”;

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 7 and 8 were agreed to.

Clause 9

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 17 and 18 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

"an application for leave to appeal to the relevant High Court established by Article 154P of the Constitution in terms of subsection (2) of section";

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 10

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 23 and 24 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“the words and figures “under sections 36A and 45A” of the words and figures “under sections 36 and 45”.”;

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 11

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed amendment to leave out lines 25 to 28 (both inclusive) in page 5.

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 12 and 13 were agreed to

Clause 14

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 16 and 20 (both inclusive) in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“amended in subsection (3) thereof, by the substitution for 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.

Clause 15

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 6 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“translations on the notice board of my office

from.... 19 ... to... 19...”;

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

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 15 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“place close to such land fromto.....”; and”;

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 16 was agreed to.

New Clauses

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed amendment to insert the following new clause immediately after line 24 in page 4:—

“insertion of new section 24 A in the principal enactment 7. The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 24 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 24 A of that enactment:-

“Amendment of pleadings 24. A (1) Upon application made to the Court before the day first fixed for trial of the action, in the presence of , or after reasonable notice to all the parties to the action, the Court shall have full power of amending in its discretion, all pleadings in the action, by way of addition, or alteration, or of omission.

(2) On or after the date the case is first fixed for trial, no application for the amendment of any pleadings shall be allowed unless the court is satisfied for reason to be recorded that grave and irremediable injustice will be caused or that a through investigation of title will be impeded, if such amendment is not permitted subject to costs or otherwise, and that the party so applying has not been guilty of laches.

(3) Any application for amendment of pleadings which may be allowed by the court under subsection (1) or (2) shall be upon such terms as to costs and postponement or otherwise as the court may think fit.

(4) The additions or alterations or omissions shall be clearly made on the face of the pleading affected by the Order; or if this cannot conveniently be done, a fair copy of the pleading as altered shall be appended in the record of the action to the pleading amended. Every such addition or alteration or omission shall be signed by the Judge.””;

Questions that the clause be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Questions that the clause be added to the Bill, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to insert the following new clause immediately after line 21 in page 7:—

"Avoidance of doubt 16. For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the amendments made by section 3 of this Act to section 16 of the principal enactment shall apply to any action, proceeding or appeal instituted under the provisions of the principal enactment and pending or incomplete on the date of coming into operation of this Act.”.

Questions that the clause be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Questions that the clause be added to the Bill, put and 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 Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms 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.

9. Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved that the 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Hon. Sajith Premadasa proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 to 16 in page 1 and substitute the following immediately after line 8:—

(Temporary suspension of selling of any Act, the Board shall not authorize any person to sell by property by public public auction any property mortgaged to the bank as auction) security for any loan in respect of which default has been made or take any action under the provisions of this Act in respect of such property, during the period of commencing on the date of commencement this section and ending on 15th December, 2026.

Question that the amendment be agreed to put, and negatived; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 25; Noes: 50; Abstain:1.

The following Seventy Six (76) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 001. Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi	No
G 005. Prasanna Ranatunga	No
G 006. Susil Premajayantha	No
G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	No
G 012. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	No
G 017. Kanchana Wijesekera	No
G 022. Jeewan Thondaman	No
G 027. Janaka Wakkumbura	No
G 028. Shehan Semasinghe	No
G 030. Thenuka Vidanagamage	No
G 031. Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon	No
G 033. Rohana Dissanayaka	No
G 036. Vijitha Berugoda	No
G 037. Lohan Ratwaththe	No
G 038. Tharaka Balasuriya	No
G 039. Indika Anuruddha Herath	No
G 040. Siripala Gamalath	No
G 043. D.V. Chanaka	No
G 047. D. B. Herath	No
G 050. Shantha Bandara	No
G 051. K. Kadder Masthan	No
G 052. Asoka Priyantha	No
G 056. Diana Gamage	No
G 057. Sivanethurai Santhirakanthan	No
G 062. Gamini Lokuge	No
G 068. Mahindananda Aluthgamage	No

G 071. Sarath Weerasekara	No
G 078. S. C. Muthukumarana	No
G 082. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura	No
G 084. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	No
G 088. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda	No
G 089. Udayakantha Gunathilaka	No
G 092. Kulasingam Dhileeban	No
G 093. Sudarshana Denipitiya	No
G 094. Isuru Dodangoda	No
G 096. Muditha Prishanthi	No
G 098. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal	No
G 100. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka	No
G 103. M. Rameshwaran	No
G 106. Madhura Withanage	No
G 107. D. Weerasingha	No
G 108. Samanpriya Herath	No
G 110. Yadamini Gunawardena	No
G 111. Manjula Dissanayake	No
G 115. Lalith Varna Kumara	No
G 116. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	No
O 006. Gayantha Karunatileka	Yes
O 007. Lakshman Kiriella	Yes
O 008. Sajith Premadasa	Yes
O 015. G.L. Peiris	Yes
O 017. A. L. M. Athaullah	No
O 024. Abdul Haleem	Yes
O 028. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara	Yes
O 031. Eran Wickramaratne	Yes
O 032. J. C. Alawathuwala	Yes
O 034. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa	No
O 044. Ashok Abeysinghe	Yes
O 051. Hector Appuhamy	Yes
O 053. Dilan Perera	Yes
O 055. Piyankara Jayaratne	No
O 057. Harini Amarasuriya	Yes
O 062. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana	Yes
O 064. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera	Yes

O 066. Imran Maharroof	Yes
O 068. Harshana Rajakaruna	Yes
O 072. M. Udayakumar	Yes
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	Yes
O 081. W. H. M. Dharmasena	Yes
O 082. Kins Nelson	Yes
O 083. Rohana Bandara	Yes
O 095. Udayana Kirindigoda	Yes
O 097. Upul Galappaththi	Yes
O 101. M. G. Weerasena	No
O 109. Weerasumana Weerasinghe	Yes
O 111. Charitha Herath	Yes
O 112. Jagath Priyankara	Abstain

Question that the clause stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 3 was agreed to.

New Clauses

The Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe proposed to leave out Section 5A of Act No. 1 of 2011 and to insert the following new Section 5A:—

“No action shall be initiated in terms of section 3 of the principal enactment for the recovery of any loan in respect of which default is made, nor shall any steps be taken in terms of section 4 or section 5 of the aforesaid Act, where the amount of such loan is less than rupees twenty million.”

The Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe proposed to leave out Section 11 of Act No. 4 of 1990 and to insert the following new Section 11:—

“The Board shall fix an upset price below which the property shall not be sold to any person or the bank to which the property is mortgaged.”

The Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe proposed to leave out Section 14 of Act No. 4 of 1990 and to insert the following new Section 14:—

“If the mortgaged property is sold, the bank shall, after deducting from the proceeds of the sale the amount due on the mortgage and the moneys and costs recoverable under section 13, pay the balance remaining, if any, either to the borrower or any person legally entitled to accept the payment due to the borrowers or where the Board is in doubt as to whom the money should be paid into the District Court of the district in which the mortgaged property is situate within three days.”

The Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe proposed to insert the following new sub Section 14a immediately after the Section 14 of Act No. 4 of 1990:—

“a) if the capital loan amount is rupees 100 million or less the amount due on the mortgage under section 14 shall be the aggregate of the capital outstanding and 75% of accumulated interest. The bank shall waive off the balance 25% of accumulate interest and penal interest in calculating the amount due under section 14.”

The Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe proposed to insert the following new Section immediately after the Section 22 of Act No. 4 of 1990:—

“**“Upset price”** the current market valuation of the property mortgaged obtained by the Bank from an Independent Valuer.”

The Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe proposed to leave out Section 19 of Act No. 4 of 1990 and to insert the following new Section 19.

“Every licensed bank shall have a “ Business Revival Unit” in order to identify and assist performing & non-performing borrowers of licensed banks who are facing challenges or may face potential financial (and/or business) difficulties inter-alia due to a reduction of income cash flows or sales, reduction or impairment of business operations or the temporary closure of business emanating from the extraordinary macroeconomic circumstances.

Notwithstanding anything in other provisions of this act the bank shall not act under section 3, 4 or 5 before the Business Revival Unit propose a restructuring plan to the defaulted borrowers”

Question that the New Clauses be agreed to put, and negatived; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 19; Noes: 49; Abstain:1.

The following Sixty Nine (69) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 001. Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi	No
G 005. Prasanna Ranatunga	No
G 006. Susil Premajayantha	No
G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	No
G 012. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	No
G 017. Kanchana Wijesekera	No
G 022. Jeewan Thondaman	No

G 027. Janaka Wakkumbura	No
G 028. Shehan Semasinghe	No
G 030. Thenuka Vidanagamage	No
G 031. Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon	No
G 033. Rohana Dissanayaka	No
G 036. Vijitha Berugoda	No
G 037. Lohan Ratwaththe	No
G 038. Tharaka Balasuriya	No
G 039. Indika Anuruddha Herath	No
G 040. Siripala Gamalath	No
G 043. D.V. Chanaka	No
G 047. D. B. Herath	No
G 050. Shantha Bandara	No
G 051. K. Kadder Masthan	No
G 052. Asoka Priyantha	No
G 056. Diana Gamage	No
G 057. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan	No
G 062. Gamini Lokuge	No
G 071. Sarath Weerasekara	No
G 078. S. C. Muthukumarana	No
G 082. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura	No
G 084. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	No
G 088. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda	No
G 089. Udayakantha Gunathilaka	No
G 092. Kulasingam Dhileeban	No
G 093. Sudarshana Denipitiya	No
G 094. Isuru Dodangoda	No
G 096. Muditha Prishanthi	No
G 098. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal	No
G 100. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka	No
G 103. M. Rameshwaran	No
G 106. Madhura Withanage	No
G 107. D. Weerasingha	No
G 108. Samanpriya Herath	No
G 110. Yadamini Gunawardena	No
G 111. Manjula Dissanayake	No
G 115. Lalith Varna Kumara	No

G 116. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	No
O 006. Gayantha Karunatileka	Yes
O 007. Lakshman Kiriella	Yes
O 008. Sajith Premadasa	Yes
O 015. G.L. Peiris	Yes
O 024. Abdul Haleem	Yes
O 028. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara	Yes
O 031. Eran Wickramaratne	Yes
O 032. J. C. Alawathuwala	Yes
O 034. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa	No
O 044. Ashok Abeysinghe	Yes
O 051. Hector Appuhamy	Yes
O 055. Piyanara Jayaratne	No
O 062. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana	Yes
O 064. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera	Yes
O 066. Imran Maharroof	Yes
O 068. Harshana Rajakaruna	Yes
O 072. M. Udayakumar	Yes
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	Yes
O 081. W. H. M. Dharmasena	Yes
O 082. Kins Nelson	Yes
O 083. Rohana Bandara	Yes
O 095. Udayana Kirindigoda	No
O 101. M. G. Weerasena	No
O 112. Jagath Priyankara	Abstain

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.

10. Sathya Sri Ghanapathi Bhakthi Jana Sewa Foundation (Incorporation) Bill:
Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Deputy Speaker to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

11. Adjournment (Issues Faced by Agricultural Research and Production Assistant Officers): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

The State Minister of Livestock Development moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.31 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.03 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 08, 2024.