



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 20.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, May 08, 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. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and
Aviation

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
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, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Weerasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
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. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
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. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharroof
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. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
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. 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. 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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
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. Samanpriya Herath

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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) the Second Installment – Part LVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020; and
- (ii) Second Installment – Parts XLVII and XLVIII, Third Installment – Part XVIII and Ninth Installment – Parts XXX and XXXI 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 Ocean View Development Company (Pvt) Ltd 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.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2021 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, the Deputy Speaker and the Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee, presented the Report of the Committee on the Bill titled, “Kelaniya Buddhist Women’s Charitable Society (Incorporation)” together with the Minutes of proceedings.

The Bill as reported by the Legislative Standing Committee be considered on Thursday the 09th May 2024

(2) Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, the Deputy Speaker and the Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee, presented the Third Report of the Ministerial Consultative Committee for the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

(3) Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law on behalf of the Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans presented the Report of the said Committee on Performance Report of the Department of National Budget for the year 2022 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Madura Withanage, Attorney at Law on behalf of the Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Reports of National Paper Company Limited for the years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015;
 - (ii) Performance Report of Department of Fiscal Policy for the year 2022;
 - (iii) Performance Report of Department of State Accounts Department for the year 2022;
 - (iv) Annual Report of the Housing Development Finance Cooperation Bank for the year 2020;
 - (v) Performance Report of Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security for the year 2022;
 - (vi) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment for the year 2021;
 - (vii) Annual Performance Report of Co-operative Employees Commission for the year 2022;
 - (viii) Annual Performance Report of Ministry of Urban Development and Housing for the year 2022; and
 - (ix) Annual Report of Condominium Management Authority for the year 2021
- which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(5) The Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on an Open & Accountable Government presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Monaragala for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Badulla for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Polonnaruwa for the year 2022;

- (iv) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat-Nuwara Eliya for the year 2022;
- (v) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat-Ampara for the year 2022;
- (vi) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat (Kachcheri)-Trincomalee for the year 2022;
- (vii) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Batticaloa for the year 2022;
- (viii) Annual Performance and Annual Accounts of the District Secretariat-Anuradhapura for the year 2022; and
- (ix) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the Department of Pensions for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(6) The Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on an Open & Accountable Government presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Parliament of Sri Lanka for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(7) The Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on an Open & Accountable Government presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Kilinochchi for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Kandy for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Vavuniya for the year 2022;
- (iv) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Matale for the year 2022;
- (v) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Mullaitivu for the year 2022;

(vi) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Mannar for the year 2022; and

(vii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Jaffna for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar presented—

(i) A petition dated 14.09.2023 from Mr. K. Kitnan of Charmas Sector, Hatton; and

(ii) A petition dated 14.09.2023 from Mr. M. Muneeswaran of Mefeeld Section, Mefeeld Estate, Hatton.

(2) Hon. Lalith Ellawala presented a petition dated 13.03.2024 from Mr. M.S.M. Mubaraq of No. 43, Badriya Masjith Road, Kalutara South.

(3) Hon. M. Rameshwaran presented a petition dated 19.01.2024 from Mrs. E.M. Kanthi Ekanayake of No. 59/3, Dodanwala Lane, Asgiriya, Kandy.

(4) Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya presented a petition dated 10.03.2024 from Mrs. S.L. Hettiarachchi of No. 84, Main Street, Thalathuoya.

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

4. Orders under the Diplomatic Privileges Act: The Minister of Education moved on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs,— That the Orders made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs under Section 4 of the Diplomatic Privileges Act, No. 9 of 1996 relating to privileges and immunities of the Host Country Agreements and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2348/48 of 08th September 2023, which were presented on 20.02.2024, be approved.

(At 11.20 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair)

Hon. Udaya Gammanapila seconded by Hon. Vadivel Suresh moved,— That Hon. Gamini Waleboda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.05 p.m. Hon. Gamini Waleboda took the Chair.)

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

Question put and agreed to.

(At 3.15 p.m. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

(At 4.52 p.m. Deputy speaker took the Chair)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under Petroleum Products (Special Provisions) Act: Minister of Education moved on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Power and Energy under Section 7 read with Sections 5 and 6 on the advice and recommendation of the Committee appointed under Section 3 of the Petroleum Products (Special Provisions) Act, No. 33 of 2002 regarding Licensing of Petroleum Products and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2340/02 of 10th July 2023, which were presented on 07.03.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.13 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, May 09, 2024.