



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 21.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, May 09, 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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

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

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

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. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion
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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
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. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Weerasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
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. Johnston Fernando
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. 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. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella

Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem

Hon. Ishak Rahuman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa

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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

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

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. H. M. M. Harees

Hon. Abdul Haleem

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

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 Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the 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, I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill titled “Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) (Amendment)” on 08th May 2024.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of nine more petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled “Sri Lanka Electricity”, in addition to the receipt of three Petitions mentioned in my announcement dated 07th May 2024.”

III

“I wish to inform that a vacancy has occurred in the membership of the Ninth Parliament with effect from 08th May 2024, as the Supreme Court having considered the S.C. Appeal No. 11/2024, has determined that the Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, M.P., is disqualified to be a Member of Parliament and is thus not entitled to hold office as a Member of Parliament in terms of Article 91(1)(d)(xiii) read with Article 66(d) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

IV

“I wish to inform that Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri, Member of Parliament has also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 112 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09th February 2024.”

2. Presentation of Reports under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament: The Minister of Education presented the Report under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament on the Bill entitled “Institute of Drafting Technologists Sri Lanka (Incorporation)”.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Friday, May 10, 2024.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) The Hon. Kanaka Herath, on behalf of the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology presented the Report of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology on Regulations made by the Minister of Technology under Section 24 read with Section 8(2) of the Electronic Transactions Act, No. 19 of 2006 read with Article 44(3) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2311/40 of 22nd December 2022 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education presented the Report of the Committee on “National Education Policy Framework - Sri Lanka (2023 – 2033)”.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 07.01.2024 from Mr. K.A.P. Perera of No. 33, Medawala, Diyabubula, Kengalla.
- (2) Hon. Anura Dissanayaka presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 24.11.2023 from Mr. A.H.A. Sulfikar of No. 254/B, Galwihara Road, Dehiwala;
 - (ii) A petition dated 03.01.2024 from Mr. N.D.L. Gunawardena of No. 2/53, Hiththetiya Meda, Matara; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 16.10.2023 from Mrs. W.M.K. Sirisena of Pambagolla, Pinnawala, Balangoda.
- (3) Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe presented a petition dated 08.12.2023 from Mr. A.S.P. Gunasiri of No. 1B/FS/U8, Sirisara Uyana, Base Line Mw, Borella, Colombo 08.

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

5. Gender Equality: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment presented,— “Bill to make provisions for the formulation and implementation of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women; to appoint or designate Gender Focal Point; to ensure gender equality of persons of different gender identities; to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, June 04, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender.

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the Parliament shall sit on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th, May 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2): 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 Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th, May 2024 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.00 p.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. Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) (Amendment) Bill:— Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment moved,— That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair)

The State Minister of Livestock Development moved,— That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 1.56 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 2.53 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 4.25 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

The Bill, accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment 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 Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clause 1 to Clause 5 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 Labour and Foreign Employment moved,— That the Bill, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

9. Adjournment (Construction of Embankment for Sea Erosion at Vankalai and Mannar): 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 adjourned at 5.36 p.m. by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the resolution of Parliament of this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024.