



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 24.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, May 14, 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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

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. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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

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. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs

Hon. Premalal Jayasekara, State Minister of Ports and Aviation

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence

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. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
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. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. M. Udayakumar
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. 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. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
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. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Dhammika Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
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. Ajith Mannapperuma
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. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law

Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
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. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel

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 announcement:—

“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 certificates on the Bills titled “Partition (Amendment)” and “Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) (Amendment)” on 13 May 2024.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the Special Audit Report on the requirement, procurement, supply, distribution and regulation of medicines in the years 2022 and 2023 in the Tenth Installment 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 be Printed.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka 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 Education presented the Order made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to “Dedicated Textile Manufacturing Zone” in Eravur, Batticaloa District and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2377/41 of 28th March 2024 and moved that this Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The 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 Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries and the Institutions coming under its purview 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.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the Lands Survey Council for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation presented the Report of the Committee on Regulations made by the Minister in charge of the subject of Civil Aviation by virtue of the powers vested in him under Section 117(2) (r) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2362/23 of 12th December 2023 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Harin Fernando, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs presented the Report of the Committee on Regulations made by the Minister of Sports under Section 34 read with Section 3 of the Convention against Doping in Sport Act, No.33 of 2013 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2373/14 of 27th February 2024 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Harin Fernando, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Minister of Tourism and Lands presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Tourism and Lands under Section 67 of the Registration of Title Act, No. 21 of 1998 relating to Registrations of Title and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2308/27 of 01st December 2022;
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Tourism and Lands under Sections 95 and 96 of the Crown Lands Ordinance (Chapter 454) read with Sections 8 and 22 of the aforesaid Ordinance on 09th April 2024;
- (iii) Orders made by the Minister of Tourism and Lands under Section 26(1) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005 on the recommendation of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority with regard to the declaration of a tourism development area and published in the,

Gazette Extraordinary No. 2348/38 of 07th September 2023;

Gazette Extraordinary No. 2352/47 of 06th October 2023;

Gazette Extraordinary No. 2352/48 of 06th October 2023;

Gazette Extraordinary No. 2360/62 of 01st December 2023; and

Gazette Extraordinary No. 2360/63 of 01st December 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage & New Citizen presented the Report of the Committee on Annual Report of the National Youth Corps for the year 2021 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe presented a petition dated 30.12.2023 from Mrs. N. Sepalika Kaikawala of No. 131/B, Aliyangewatta, Maha Induruwa, Induruwa.
- (2) Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena presented a petition dated 08.12.2023 from Ven. K. Dhammarathana of Sri Vimalaramaya, Amuhenkanda, Parakaduwa.

(3) Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara presented—

(i) A petition dated 18.02.2024 from Mr. G.H. Jayawickrama of No. 104/B, Karamada, Gelioya; and

(ii) A petition dated 16.12.2023 from Mrs. P.G. Pushpakanthi of No. 99/C, Rajasinghapura, Muruthalawa.

(4) Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara presented a petition dated 18.02.2024 from Mrs. L. Britis Perera of No. 13/92, Awissawella Road, Orugodawatta.

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

5. 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 and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09th May 2024, 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.

6. Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into and to make suitable recommendations relating to the disasters caused by New Diamond and X-press Pearl Vessels in the Maritime Zone of Sri Lanka: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into and to make suitable recommendations relating to the disasters caused by New Diamond and X-press Pearl Vessels in the Maritime Zone of Sri Lanka, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 09 February 2024, be extended up to 20 July 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament, as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Select Committee of Parliament to look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short term, medium term and long term measures to be taken in that regard, as well as to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to look into whether the child malnutrition issue in Sri Lanka is aggravating and to identify short term, medium term and long term measures to be taken in that regard, as well as to oversee the speedy implementation of the identified measures, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 22 February 2024 be extended up to 05 September 2024, in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament, as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Sittings of the Parliament (No.2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Implementation of Permanent Ceasefire between Israel and Palestine): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

(At 12.31 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair)

The State Minister of Education moved,— That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 1.55 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Hon. Dhammika Perera, seconded by Hon. Wimal Weerawansa moved,—That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.26 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama 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 3.33 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

State Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,—That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.37 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on this day.