



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 27.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, June 05, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson 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. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and
Minister of Mass Media

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. (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 Wijesekera, 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. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

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. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
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. 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. 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. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
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. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara 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. 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. (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. Rishad Bathiudeen
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. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
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. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
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. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, 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 the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. Speaker has received a copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill titled ‘Public Financial Management’ under Article 121(1) of the Constitution.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. Speaker has received copies of nine more Petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Economic Transformation’, in addition to the receipt of five Petitions mentioned in the announcement made by the Hon. Speaker on 04th of June 2024.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Deputy Speaker presented the Ninth Installment – Part XXXII 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 Deputy Speaker presented the Tenth Installment of the Report of the Auditor-General, the Joint Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General including audit observations revealed Pertaining to Corporate Governance Subjects in the Audit of Public Corporations, Companies, Banks (Institutions in relation to Section 12 of the Audit Act No. 19 of 2018) for the year 2021 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.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Management Services for the year 2023;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Planning for the year 2023;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of Trade and Investment Policy for the year 2023;
- (iv) Performance Report of the Department of Management Audit for the year 2023;
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Information Technology Management for the year 2023;

- (vi) Performance Report of the Department of State Accounts for the year 2023;
- (vii) Performance Report of the Department of Legal Affairs for the year 2023;
- (viii) Performance Report of the Comptroller General's Office for the year 2023;
- (ix) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Treasury Operations for the year 2023;
- (x) Performance Report of the Department of Imports and Exports Control for the year 2023; and
- (xi) Performance Report of the Department of National Budget for the year 2023.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Prime Minister's Office for the year 2023;
- (ii) Performance Reports of the District Secretariats of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Matara, Kegalle, Matale, Colombo, Puttalam, Polonnaruwa, Ratnapura, Galle, Ampara, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Kurunegala, for the year 2023;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Official Languages for the year 2023; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Plantation Industries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries for the year 2023; and

- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Agriculture Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture .

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Archives for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy and Transport presented the Report of the Committee on the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority for the year 2020 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence presented the Report of the said Committee on Annual Performance Reports of Hindu Cultural Fund for the years 2020 and 2021 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence presented the Report of the Committee on the —

- (i) Annual Reports of Buddhasasana Fund for the years 2018 and 2019; and
(ii) Annual Performance Report of Hindu Cultural Fund 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. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented —

- (i) A petition dated 06.02.2024 from Mrs. P.P.G. Padmawathie and another eight persons of No. E 3/1, R.V.D.B. Houses, Angunakolapelassa;

- (ii) A petition dated 28.04.2024 from Mr. Rathnasiri Thennakoon and another five persons of No. 57, Raththota Road, Kaikawala, Matale; and
- (iii) A petition dated 12.05.2024 from Mr. S.P.K. Wickrama Pathirana of No. 05, Temple Road, Warakanda Waththa, Ukuwela.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi presented a petition dated 29.04.2024 from Mr. Sarath Kumara Wanniarachchi of Pustholamulla, Ranakeliya South, Thissamaharama.
- (3) Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakse presented a petition dated 18.04.2024 from Mr. R.M.N.S. Bandara of No. 20/60/02, Kumarigama, Udana, Ampara.

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

5. 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 10.30 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. Leave to introduce Bill: Hon. Hector Appuhamy, seconded by the Hon. Mujibur Rahuman moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the J.C. Alawathuwela Foundation.”

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 Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs for report.

7. Regulations under the Electronic Transactions Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the 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 presented on 05.03.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Civil Aviation Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117(2)(r) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 relating to the charges to be paid by aircraft flying over the Colombo Flight Information Region for the use of air navigation facilities and services provided by Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2362/23 of 12th December 2023, which were presented on 22.03.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Petroleum Resources Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Power and Energy under Section 48 read with Sections 4(a) and 16(4) of the Petroleum Resources Act, No. 21 of 2021 and under Section 48 read with Section 13(3) of the Petroleum Resources Act, No. 21 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2374/17 of 05th March 2024, which were presented on 13.05.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment (Permanent Solutions to Critical Problems in the Education Sector): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.34 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.27 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

The Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,— That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.33 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.09 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.48 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.17 p.m. adjourned 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 Thursday, June 06, 2024.