



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 28.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, June 06, 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. Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration,
Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and
Minister of Mass Media

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

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

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law, Minister of Education and
Leader of the House of Parliament

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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
Affairs

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. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Rohitha Abegunawardhana

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

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. 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. Lalith Varna Kumara

Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri

Hon. Velu Kumar

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. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera 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. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan 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. 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. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
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. M. Rameshwaran

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. 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. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi

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

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

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. 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 Speaker took the Chair.

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

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received another copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Public Financial Management’, in addition to the receipt of a Petition mentioned in the announcement made by me on 05th of June 2024.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of three 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 fourteen Petitions mentioned in the announcements made by me on 04th and 05th of June 2024.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Performance Report of the Presidential Secretariat for the year 2023;
- (ii) Performance Report of the National Police Commission for the year 2023; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Reports of the District Secretariats of Mannar and Jaffna 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.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Project Management and Monitoring for the year 2023 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 Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission under Section 71 read with Section 52 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2381/24 of 22nd April 2024 moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Proclamation made and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2387/11 of 04th June 2024 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the president in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979.

Ordered that this Paper do lie upon the **Table**.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Community Based Corrections for the year 2023 moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Co-operative Employees Commission for the year 2023 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. Chamal Rajapaksa, Chair of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges presented the First Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges for the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2022;
- (ii) Forty-fourth Annual Report of the University Grants Commission for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual Reports of the National Institute of Education for the years 2019 and 2020;
- (iv) Annual Report of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2022; and
- (v) Annual Report of State Printing Corporation for the year 2021

which were referred to the said Committee

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

(3) Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy and Transport presented the Report of the Committee on Sri Lanka Electricity Bill which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana presented --

- (i) A petition dated 21.12.2023 from Mr. O.A. Kalansooriya of 'Nuwan', Opatha, Uluwitike, Galle; and
- (ii) A petition dated 02.05.2024 from Mr. W.K.S. Rukshan of Boralukada Watta, Thelikada, Ginimellagaha.

- (2) Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne presented a petition dated 26.02.2024 from Mr. G. H. Janaka Kumara of No 43, Mahawela Place, Kirulapone, Colombo 06.
- (3) Hon. Anupa Pasqual presented a petition dated 21.03.2024 from Mrs. P.H. Chamila Dilrukshi of No. 429/04, Akkara 20, Palanda.
- (4) Hon. Waruna Liyanage presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 22.01.2024 from Mrs. H.L.A.L. Kumari of Hituwala, Pinnawala, Balangoda; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 20.12.2023 from Mrs. P.A. Anulawathi of Ashoka Place, Millawitiya, Kuruwita.

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

5. Sri Lanka Electricity Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

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

(At 11.15 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security moved,—That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.59 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

(At 1.11 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair)

The Minister of Industries and Minister of Health moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.15 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Industries and Minister of Health moved,—That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.53 p.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 4.50 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 103; Noes: 59.

The following Hundred and Fifty Nine (159) 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	Yes
G 002. Nimal Siripala De Silva	Yes
G 003. Chamal Rajapaksa	Yes
G 004. Mahinda Rajapaksa	Yes
G 006. Susil Premajayantha	Yes
G 007. Dinesh Gunawardena	Yes
G 009. Douglas Devananda	Yes
G 010. Bandula Gunawardana	Yes
G 012. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	Yes
G 014. Ramesh Pathirana	Yes
G 015. M. U. M. Ali Sabry	Yes
G 016. Vidura Wickramanayaka	Yes
G 017. Kanchana Wijesekera	Yes
G 018. Manusha Nanayakkara	Yes
G 019. Tiran Alles	Yes
G 020. Nalin Fernando	Yes
G 021. Ajith Rajapakse	Yes
G 022. Jeewan Thondaman	Yes
G 023. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya	Yes
G 025. Dilum Amunugama	Yes
G 026. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva	Yes
G 027. Janaka Wakkumbura	Yes
G 028. Shehan Semasinghe	Yes
G 029. Kanaka Herath	Yes
G 030. Thenuka Vidanagamage	Yes
G 031. Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon	Yes
G 032. Lasantha Alagiyawanna	Yes
G 033. Rohana Dissanayaka	Yes
G 034. Premalal Jayasekara	Yes
G 036. Vijitha Berugoda	Yes
G 037. Lohan Ratwaththe	Yes
G 038. Tharaka Balasuriya	Yes
G 039. Indika Anuruddha Herath	Yes
G 040. Siripala Gamalath	Yes
G 041. Anuradha Jayaratne	Yes
G 043. D.V. Chanaka	Yes
G 044. Sisira Jayakody	Yes
G 045. Piyal Nishantha De Silva	Yes
G 046. Prasanna Ranaweera	Yes
G 047. D. B. Herath	Yes

G 048. Shasheendra Rajapaksa	Yes
G 049. Seetha Arambepola	Yes
G 050. Shantha Bandara	Yes
G 051. K. Kadder Masthan	Yes
G 052. Asoka Priyantha	Yes
G 053. A. Aravindh Kumar	Yes
G 054. Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe	Yes
G 055. Suren Raghavan	Yes
G 056. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan	Yes
G 058. Anupa Pasqual	Yes
G 059. Johnston Fernando	Yes
G 060. S. B. Dissanayake	Yes
G 061. Gamini Lokuge	Yes
G 062. Vajira Abeywardena	Yes
G 063. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon	Yes
G 064. C. B. Rathnayake	Yes
G 066. S. M. Chandrasena	Yes
G 067. Mahindananda Aluthgamage	Yes
G 068. Rohitha Abeygunawardana	Yes
G 070. Sarath Weerasekara	Yes
G 071. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka	Yes
G 074. Kapila Athukorala	Yes
G 075. Gayashan Nawananda	Yes
G 076. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff	Yes
G 077. S. C. Muthukumarana	Yes
G 078. Jayantha Ketagoda	Yes
G 079. Sampath Athukorala	Yes
G 080. Thisakutti Arachchi	Yes
G 081. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura	Yes
G 082. Pradeep Undugoda	Yes
G 083. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	Yes
G 084. Akila Ellawala	Yes
G 087. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda	Yes
G 089. Kokila Gunawardene	Yes
G 090. Milan Jayathilake	Yes
G 092. Sudarshana Denipitiya	Yes
G 093. Isuru Dodangoda	Yes
G 094. Premnath C. Dolawatte	Yes
G 095. Muditha Prishanthi	Yes
G 096. Sudath Manjula	Yes

G 099. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka	Yes
G 101. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha	Yes
G 102. M. Rameshwaran	Yes
G 103. Rajika Wickramasinghe	Yes
G 104. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana	Yes
G 105. Madhura Withanage	Yes
G 106. D. Weerasingha	Yes
G 107. Samanpriya Herath	Yes
G 108. Sagara Kariyawasam	Yes
G 109. Yadamini Gunawardena	Yes
G 110. Manjula Dissanayake	Yes
G 111. Ranjith Bandara	Yes
G 112. Jayantha Weerasinghe	Yes
G 114. Lalith Varna Kumara	Yes
G 115. S. Jagath Samarawickrama	Yes
G 116. M. G. Weerasena	Yes
O 006. Gayantha Karunatileka	No
O 007. Lakshman Kiriella	No
O 008. Sajith Premadasa	No
O 010. Patali Champika Ranawaka	No
O 011. Palany Thigambaram	No
O 012. Mano Ganesan	No
O 015. G.L. Peiris	No
O 016. Anura Dissanayaka	No
O 022. Kabir Hashim	No
O 023. Thalatha Athukorala	No
O 024. Abdul Haleem	No
O 026. Harsha De Silva	No
O 028. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara	No
O 029. Dilip Wedaarachchi	No
O 030. Niroshan Perera	No
O 031. Eran Wickramaratne	No
O 032. J. C. Alawathuwala	No
O 033. John Seneviratne	Yes
O 034. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa	Yes
O 036. Dullas Alahapperuma	No
O 037. Vijitha Herath	No
O 040. Ali Sabri Raheem	Yes
O 044. Ashok Abeysinghe	No
O 047. Ajith Mannapperuma	No

O 048. Buddhika Pathirana	No
O 049. M. S. Thowfeek	No
O 050. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha	No
O 051. Hector Appuhamy	No
O 052. Thushara Indunil Amarasena	No
O 053. Dilan Perera	No
O 054. Wimal Weerawansa	No
O 055. Piyankara Jayaratne	Yes
O 057. Harini Amarasuriya	No
O 061. Velu Kumar	No
O 062. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana	No
O 063. Mayantha Dissanayake	No
O 064. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera	No
O 065. S. M. Marikkar	No
O 066. Imran Maharoof	No
O 068. Mujibur Rahuman	No
O 069. Harshana Rajakaruna	No
O 070. Rohini Kumari Wijerathna	No
O 071. Hessa Withanage	No
O 072. Waruna Liyanage	No
O 073. Jayarathna Herath	No
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	No
O 076. Dayasiri Jayasekara	No
O 081. M. Udayakumar	No
O 083. Kins Nelson	No
O 085. Udaya Gammanpila	No
O 086. Nalaka Godahewa	No
O 087. Channa Jayasumana	No
O 089. Nimal Lanza	Yes
O 090. Jayantha Samaraweera	No
O 091. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara	No
O 096. K. P. S. Kumarasiri	No
O 097. Upul Galappaththi	No
O 098. Shan Vijayalal De Silva	No
O 106. Wasantha Yapabandara	No
O 107. Thilak Rajapakshe	No
O 109. Gevindu Cumaratunga	No
O 110. Charitha Herath	No
O 111. Weerasumana Weerasinghe	No

The following three (03) Members of Parliament cast their votes having being asked the names by the Secretary-General of Parliament under the Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Parliament as follows —

Marjan Faleel	Yes
A. H. M. Fowzie	Yes
V. Radhakrishnan	No

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy 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 Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 26 in page 2 and substitute the following :—

“of this section, section 2, section 3, section 4, section 9, subsection (1) of section 10, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 10, subsection (3) of section 10, subsection (5) of section 10, section 14, section 15, section 17, section 18, section 38, section 39 and the sections specified”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 30 to 33 (both inclusive) in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“appointed date”):

Provided that, prior to making such Order, the Minister shall be satisfied that the Preliminary Transfer Plan, the National Electricity Policy, including the National Tariff Policy, the Annual Power Procurement Plan and the Long Term Power System Development Plan have been prepared, approved and are in place in accordance with the provisions of this Act.”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 7 in page 3 and substitute the following :—

“Provided further, if no appointed date is published in the Gazette as required by this subsection even though the Minister is satisfied that the requirements in the first proviso have been met, the provisions of this Act, other than the provisions of this section, section 2, section 3, section 4, section 9, subsection (1) of section 10, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 10, subsection (3) of section 10, subsection (5) of section 10, section 14, section 15, section 17, section 18, section 38 and section 39 and the sections specified in subsection (4) of this section, shall come into operation immediately upon the expiry of twelve months from the date on which the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament.”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 8 and 9 in page 3 and substitute the following :—

“(3) The provisions of this section, section 2, section 3, section 4, section 9, subsection (1) of section 10, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 10, subsection (3) of section 10, subsection (5) of section 10, section 14, section 15, section 17, section 18, section 38 and section 39 shall come into operation on the date on which the Bill”;

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

Hon. Kabir Hashim proposed an amendment to insert the following new sentence immediately after sub section 3 in page 3:—

“For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby stated that the Appointed Date shall be a date only upon the completion of the first proviso of the subsection (2) of this section.”

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

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara proposed an amendment to leave out lines 31 to 33 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“However, the Minister may, at any time within two months prior to the expiration of the said twelve months, with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers extend such period, by Order published in the Gazette for another period of six months at a time so however, the aggregate period of such extensions shall not exceed twenty-four months.”;

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

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 2

Hon. Kabir Hashim proposed an amendment to leave out line 14 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“electricity are met as per the long term power system development plan, whilst ensuring efficient use”

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

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

Clause 3

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 27 in page 8 and substitute the following :—

“in electrical engineering and administration.”;

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

Hon. Kabir Hashim proposed an amendment to leave out line 25 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“the Constitution Council, one of whom shall be appointed”

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

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath proposed an amendment to leave out entire Clause 3 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY POLICY AND POLICY GUIDELINES

3.(I) The Minister may appoint an Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") for the purpose of advising the Minister in formulating the national electricity policy in respect of-

(i) matters relating to the Electricity Industry and formulation of the national electricity policy in terms of section 4 of this Act;

(ii) matters relating to the implementation of the Electricity Industry reforms in accordance with the provisions of this Act, relating to the generation, transmission, distribution, trade, supply and procurement of electricity in Sri Lanka;

(iii) on the modalities relating to the formulation of proposals and plans for the development of the Electricity Industry including the establishment of competitive electricity markets including interconnections with regional markets through the reform process in order to ensure its successful implementation;

- (iv) optimal utilisation of indigenous energy resources, including renewable energy, modern technologies and energy efficiency to meet the electricity demand ensuring the least cost principle;
- (v) matters related to the preparation of the Long Term Power System Development Plan in terms of the national electricity policy under the provisions of this Act;
- (vi) matters relating to the formulation of the national tariff policy, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Regulator, to ensure consumer affordability, financial sustainability and the sustainability of the regulated entities; and
- (vii) any other matter connected with or arising out of the national electricity policy.

Provided that, the Committee shall further advise the Minister and provide recommendations on matters relating to the appointment of the board of directors and establishment of the successor companies incorporated as limited companies under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 in terms of section 17 of this Act;

- (2) The Committee shall consult the relevant stakeholders and shall act in good faith and in the best interests of the country and the consumers.
- (3) The Committee shall consist of the following eight members appointed by the Minister, and the committee shall be directly under the purview of the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister and the Ministry of the Minister shall provide all necessary facilities for the conduct of the Committee;
 - (a) Director General of the Department of National Planning;
 - (b) Director General of Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka;
 - (c) Director General of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority;
 - (d) a person to represent the development finance banks in Sri Lanka, nominated by the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka reached eminence and has at least twenty years of experience in economics;
 - (e) a representative from the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, nominated by such Institute, who has expertise, reached eminence and has at least twenty years of experience in the fields of renewable energy, energy transition and energy policy making;
 - (f) a representative of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, nominated by such Chamber, who has expertise, reached eminence and has at least twenty years of experience in the field of energy policy making;

(g) a representative of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, nominated by such Institute, who has expertise, reached eminence and has at least twenty years of experience in finance and market operations;

(h) a person having expertise, reached eminence and has at least twenty years of experience in the field of power system planning and operation;

Provided that, any member of the Committee shall not be in any conflict of interest related to the duties of the Committee.

(4) The Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister shall ensure proper functioning and discharge of duties of the committee and may provide guidelines to the committee with the advice of the Minister on matters related to the national electricity policy.”;

“(6) Change the name of the ‘National Electricity Advisory Council’ or ‘Council’ to ‘Advisory Committee’ and ‘Committee’ as applicable throughout the Bill;”

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

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 4

Hon. Kabir Hashim proposed an amendment to leave out lines 4 and 5 of subsection (h) in page 13.

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out line 21 in page 11 and substitute the following:—

“(2) After the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, the”

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

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath proposed an amendment to leave out lines 11 to 13 (both inclusive) in page 14 and substitute the following —

“electricity policy arises, the Minister may review the national electricity policy with the assistance of the Committee.”;

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

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara proposed an amendment to leave out line 13 in page 12 and substitute the following :—

“investment portfolios in energy technologies”;

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

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara proposed another amendment to leave out lines 4 and 5 in page 13.

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

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

Clauses 5 to 8 were agreed to.

Clause 9

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out line 2 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Establishment of the Independent System Operator

And Correct the same throughout the Bill”

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

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

Clause 10

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 6 in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“electrical engineering and administration who shall be appointed by the Board with”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 4 (both inclusive) in page 33 and substitute the following:—

“(14) The National System Operator shall enter into—

(a) power purchase agreements with generation licensees and transmission service agreements with transmission licensees as specified in subsection (12);” and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 18 in page 33 and substitute the following:—

“agreements;

- (b) power purchase agreements with generation licensees incorporated under the preliminary transfer plan specified in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 18;
- (c) power sales agreements with distribution licensees incorporated under the preliminary transfer plan specified in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 18;
- (d) a transmission service agreement with the National Transmission Network Service Provider incorporated under the preliminary transfer plan specified in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 18 and subsection (12) of this section.”;

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

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva proposed an amendment to leave out line 24 in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“system of Sri Lanka ensuring continuous supply of electricity ”

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

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva proposed another amendment to leave out line 13 in page 29 and substitute the following:—

“The Regulator shall, with the consent of the Minister, prescribe the procedure, format ”

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

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva proposed another amendment to leave out line 26 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“by the Cabinet of Ministers, on the recommendation of the Regulator ”

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

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath proposed an amendment to leave out line 15 in page 29 and substitute the following:—

“are to be implemented by the independent System Operator only on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee appointed under section 3.”;

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

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 11

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 37 in page 34 and substitute the following:—

“subsection:

Provided further, the selection of the party to whom approval has been granted or the letter of award has been issued shall be selected pursuant to a competitive and transparent procurement process.”;

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

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva proposed an amendment to leave out line 11 in page 35 and substitute the following:—

“(i) The Minister, on the recommendation of the Regulator and with the approval of the”

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

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva proposed an amendment to leave out line 18 in page 35 and substitute the following:—

“(ii) The Minister, on the recommendation of the Regulator and with the approval of the”

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

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath proposed an amendment to leave out line 10 in page 35 and substitute the following:—

“(3) The Minister may on the advice of the Advisory Committee, by”;

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

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 13 were agreed to.

Clause 14

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 39 and substitute the following:—

“14.(1) No person other than a company incorporated”;

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 and 4 in page 40 and substitute the following:—

“person who is applying for an additional transmission licence under subsection (2)”

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

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 15 and 16 were agreed to.

Clause 17

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out lines 9 and 10 in page 44 and substitute the following:—

“such limited companies shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Subject to the provisions”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 14 to 16 (both inclusive) in page 44 and substitute the following:—

“vested by operation of law, in each of such limited companies.”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 17 in page 44 and substitute the following:—

“(2) (a) On the appointed date, by virtue of the operation”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 24 in page 44 and substitute the following:—

“functions shall vest in the limited companies”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 27 in page 44 and substitute the following:—

“section 18.

(b) The Secretary to the Treasury shall be initially allotted hundred *per centum* of the shares in the successor companies incorporated under this section other than the companies referred to in items (a), (f) and (h) (ii) of Schedule I in which the Secretary to the Treasury shall be permanently allotted hundred *per centum* of the shares.”;

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 18

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 32 in page 45 and substitute the following:—

“commence operations;”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 9 in page 46 and substitute the following:—

“industry; and

(c) The Secretary to the Treasury may, with the prior approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, and having followed a transparent and competitive bidding process as stipulated by law dispose of any shares issued or allotted to him in any successor company other than the companies referred to in items (a), (f) and (h)(ii) of Schedule I or of any rights over such shares only after the publication of the final transfer plan in the Gazette in terms of paragraph (b):

Provided that, the Secretary to the Treasury shall, in disposing any shares as specified in paragraph (c) ensure that the Government holds more than fifty *per centum* of the shares of the company referred to in item (e) of Schedule I”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 16 in page 48 and substitute the following:—

“Fund and the monies required to meet the Provident Fund obligations of the employees of the Ceylon Electricity Board.”

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 10 in page 49 and substitute the following:—

“months of this section comes into operation;”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 20 in page 49 and substitute the following:—

“on terms and conditions not less favourable than those enjoyed by them on the day preceding the appointed date under their contract of”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 25 and 26 in page 49 and substitute the following:—

“terms and conditions of such scheme shall be prescribed within four months of this section comes into operation; and

(g) identify the share capital, the management structure and the source of funds for the entities to be established under subsection (1) of section 17.”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 28 in page 50 and substitute the following:—

“Board who opts for voluntary retirement from the date on”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 14 in page 51 and substitute the following :—

“Pension Fund, as the case may be, and the successor companies shall make all other statutory payments including gratuity to the employees of the Ceylon Electricity Board who have become the employees of the successor companies. The period that an employee served with the Ceylon Electricity Board shall be taken into consideration when calculating the statutory payments that are payable to such employees.”;

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out lines 24 to 26 in page 45 and substitute the following:—

“thereafter to be published in the Gazette shall contain all details of the vesting of the”

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

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 19 was agreed to.

Clause 20

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 16 in page 54 and substitute the following:—

“(6) A person who holds more than fifteen *per centum* of”;
and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 29 and 30 in page 54 and substitute the following:—

“generation licence;
(f) a generation licence and a distribution licence; or
(g) more than one distribution licence.”;

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 21

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 11 in page 55 and substitute the following —

“applicant, proceed to”;

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 22 was agreed to.

Clause 23

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out lines 25 and 26 in page 58 and substitute the following:—

“to modify any licence in the national interest, proceed to modify the”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 3 and 4 in page 59 and substitute the following:—

“as specified in subsection (3), revoke by Order published in the Gazette, a”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 3 in page 64 and substitute the following:—

“the Regulator may, by”;

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 24 to 30 were agreed to.

Clause 31

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva proposed an amendment to insert the following new sentence immediately after line 2 in page 78:—

“Provided that, such policy guidelines shall be formulated in accordance with globally accepted and implemented methodologies.”

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

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

Clauses 32 to 37 were agreed to.

Clause 38

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out lines 7 to 11 (both inclusive) in page 84 and substitute the following:—

“(2) (a) The Minister shall appoint not more than five persons with integrity, one of whom shall have not less

than ten years experience in electrical engineering, and the other four persons with not less than ten years of experience in one or more of the following fields to be members of the Power Sector Reform Secretariat:-

(i) power system planning and operation”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 15 to 17 (both inclusive) in page 84 and substitute the following:—

“(v) public private partnership; or
(vi) finance.”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 19 in page 84 and substitute the following:—

“not less than fifteen years experience in one or more of the following fields to be the”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 21 in page 84 and substitute the following:—

“(i) power system planning and operation”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 24 to 27 (both inclusive) in page 84 and substitute the following:—

“(iv) electrical engineering;
(v) public private partnership; or
(vi) finance.”;

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 39

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 87 and substitute the following:—

“the appointed date with such valuation being carried out by the Chief Valuer.”

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 40 to 47 were agreed to.

Clause 48

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out lines 1 to 9 (both inclusive) in page 96.

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

Question that the Clause remove from the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 49 to 51 were agreed to.

Clause 52

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out lines 20 to 22 (both inclusive) in page 100 and substitute the following:—

“under section 10;” and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 13 in page 101 and substitute the following —

“nine months and within six months from the appointed date;”

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 53

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out lines 5 and 6 in page 109 and substitute the following —

“consisting of transmission assets and grid substations owned”; and

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law proposed an amendment to leave out lines 26 and 27 in page 106 and substitute the following:—

“works and other hydraulic works, but does not ”

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

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 54 was agreed to.

Schedule I

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed an amendment to leave out the words “shall on the date of the coming into operation of this Act, being a date not later than six months from the date on which this Act has been certified by the Speaker in terms of Article 79 of the Constitution as an Act of Parliament,” in page 114 and substitute the following:—

“shall on the appointed date”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out the words “shares are held by the Government of Sri Lanka to take” in item (a), in page 115 and substitute the following:—

“shares are held by the Secretary to the Treasury to take”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out the words “one company of which the Government of Sri Lanka” in term (f), in page 115 and substitute the following:—

“one company of which the Secretary to the Treasury”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy proposed another amendment to leave out the words “the Government.” in tem (h), (ii) in page 116 and substitute the following:—

“the Secretary to the Treasury.”.

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

Question that the Schedule I as amended stand part of 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 Education on behalf of the Minister of Power and Energy 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.

6. Adjournment (Grant of Permanent Appointments to Registered Substitutes in Department of Posts): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed and, debated.

(At 6.14 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.27 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, June 07, 2024.