



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 29.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, June 07, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

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

Hon. (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. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, PC, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, Minister of Wildlife
and Forest Resources Conservation and Minister of Irrigation

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

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education
Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivaneshathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy
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. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment
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. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. 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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
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. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
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. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
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 the Determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill titled ‘Gender Equality’ which was challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

In the said determination, the Supreme Court has determined the Constitutionality of the Bill as follows:—

The Supreme Court held that the promulgation of this Bill is inconsistent with Article 12 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court also has held that the objects of this Bill in Clause 2 read with Clause 3, Clause 4 would be inconsistent with Article 9, 10, 12, 14(1)(e) and 27(1)(g) of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has also held that Clause 4, 7, 17, 18, 25, 26 and 27 are inconsistent with Articles 9, 10, 12(1), 14(1)(e), 14(1)(f), 27(1)(g) of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has held that power being vested in the Council set up under Clauses 5 and 6 read with clause 7 are inconsistent with Articles 9, 10, 12(1), 14(1)(e), 14(1)(f) and 27(1)(g) of the Constitution. Therefore, clauses 17 and 18 of the Bill which set out the requirement of the office of ‘Gender Focal Point’ and the provisions in Clauses 8 to 16 and 19 to 24 of the Bill, which are incidental provisions for the existence, management and exercise of powers and duties of the Council are also inconsistent with Articles 9, 10, 12(1), 14(1)(e), 14(1)(f) and 27(1)(g) of the Constitution.

The objects of the Bill are inconsistent with Articles 3, 4(d), 9 & 10 of the Constitution and they are inseparable from the other provisions of the Bill. Therefore, the Supreme Court has determined that the Bill as a whole is inconsistent with Articles 3, 4(d), 9 & 10 of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that the Bill as a whole cannot be enacted into law, unless the appropriate procedure laid down in Articles 83 and/or Article 84 and read with Article 80 of the Constitution which requires that the number of votes cast in favor thereof must amount to not less than two-thirds of the whole number of Members of Parliament (including those not present), and is approved by the People at a Referendum.

I order that the Determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today's proceedings of the House."

II

"In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the 'Institution of Building Services Engineering & Technology of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill':-

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe"

III

"In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama, M.P. as a Co-opted Member to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the 'Penal Code (Amendment)' Bill."

IV

"The question of privilege raised by the Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law, M.P. in Parliament on 21 March 2024 will be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges."

V

"The question of privilege raised by the Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara, M.P. in Parliament on 01 April 2024 will be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges."

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the Supplementary Estimate No. 01 of 2024 and moved that Supplementary Estimate be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies for the year 2023;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Government Valuation for the year 2023;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of External Resources for the year 2023;
- (iv) Performance Report of the Department of Public Enterprises for the year 2023;
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Development Finance for the year 2023; and
- (vi) Performance Report of the Department of Public Finance 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.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Election Commission for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Reports of the District Secretariats of Monaragala, Hambantota and Vavuniya for the year 2023

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) 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 Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament;
- (ii) 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 District Secretariat-Ratnapura in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and

- (iii) 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 Election Commission in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Development Activities Programme appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 05.04.2024 to 30.04.2024 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 34 of 2023.

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

(6) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Printing for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Education presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 124(6) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries in the report of the Committee on Ways and Means which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society .

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs presented the Annual Report of the Youth Corps for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Museums for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Regulations under the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010;
- (ii) Order under the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010; and
- (iii) Notification under the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002.

which were referred to the Committee

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

(2) Hon. D. Weerasingha, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security and Agriculture presented the Report of the Committee on Animal Welfare 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. Dullas Alahapperuma presented a petition dated 03.11.2023 from Mr. H.A.P.Dharmasena of No. 43/1, Near the Divisional Health Center, Dhanyagama, China Bay.
- (2) Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe presented a petition dated 30.03.2024 from Mr. P.A. Karunasena of 'Jaya Niwasa', Polgahamulla, Dickwella.

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

5. Business of the Parliament (No. 1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Government Business shall have precedence this day.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Business of the Parliament (No. 2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 54 and 55 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission 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 Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission under Section 71 read with Section 52(5) of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2355/30 of 25th October 2023, which were presented on 02.12.2023, be approved.

Regulations by leave of the House withdrawn.

8. Resolution under the Essential Public Services 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 this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2385/11 of 21st May 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, which was presented on 22.05.2024, be approved.

Resolution by leave of the House withdrawn.

9. Public Debt Management Bill — Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.23 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair)

The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,—That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.33 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Mass Media moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.44 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

(At 4.46 p.m. Speaker took the Chair)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies 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 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 17 to 19 (both inclusive) in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“Government and Special Spending Units;”;

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 3

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“and executing a medium term to long term strategy for managing”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 12 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“medium term to long term consistent with a prudent”;

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 4 and 5 were agreed to.

Clause 6

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 16 to 20 (both inclusive) in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“(b) negotiation of financial terms and conditions and execution of domestic and external borrowings, other credit arrangements and debt management activities of the Government:

Provided that, the Government's external borrowings from”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 10 and 11 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“(h) servicing of the debt of the Government on a timely basis in accordance with”;

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 7 was agreed to.

Clause 8

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 6 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“the subject of Fiscal Policy of the”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 9 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“the subject of External Resources of the Treasury;”;

(e) the Director-General of the department in charge of the subject of the National Budget of the Treasury;

(f) the Director-General of the department in charge of the subject of Public Enterprises of the Treasury;”;

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 9

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 29 in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“in the market and on official development”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 2 and 3 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“it by the Minister for the purposes of achieving the objectives under section 3.”; and

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 10 was agreed to.

Clause 11

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 30 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“Appropriation Bill of the year for which”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 4 to 6 (both inclusive) in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“section 3, the strategy formulated and updated annually on a rolling five year horizon under subsection (1), constitutes the upcoming financial year and four succeeding financial years and shall take into account the following -”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 14 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“preparation of the strategy.”;

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 12

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 26 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“(2) Debt of the Government of Sri Lanka shall”;

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 13

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 1 in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“(a) to finance any deficit in the annual”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 29 in page 8 and substitute the following —

“Sri Lanka by replenishing its foreign currency”;

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 14

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 9 and 10 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“(2) Where debt securities are issued under subsection (1),
the proceeds from the issuance of the”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 16 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“the Central Bank.”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 19 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“the debt stock and reported in the annual report as a separate item under”;

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 15 to 19 were agreed to.

Clause 20

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 22 in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“(a) the borrower is not in any financial difficulty”;

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 Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 24 in page 14 and substitute the following:—

“shall”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 8 in page 15 and substitute the following:—

“shall”

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 23 was agreed to.

Clause 24

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 25 and 26 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“(f) details of supplier's credit agreements entered into by
the Government under subsection (2) of section 21;” and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 28 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“the Government under subsection (2) of section 22; and

(h) the outstanding values of issuances of debt securities
for the purpose of supporting the implementation of
monetary policy objectives under section 14.”;

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 25 was agreed to.

Clause 26

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 17 in page 18 and substitute the following:—

“of funds denominated in foreign currency by a state
owned”;

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 27 to 30 were agreed to.

Clause 31

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 11 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“(2) The Minister shall appoint primary dealers with the
recommendation of the Central Bank to facilitate”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 13 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“debt securities.

(3) The appointment of primary dealers shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Office may deem appropriate, and shall include the following: -

- (a) the financial standing of the entity;
- (b) the entity's experiences and the ability to perform the duties that will be imposed on it by or under this Act;
- (c) the entity's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; and
- (d) public interest:

(4) The primary dealers appointed under the Local Treasury Bills Ordinance (Chapter 417) and Registered Stock and Securities Ordinance (Chapter 420) shall continue to be primary dealers under this Act and be subject to the Regulations made by the Minister under this Act.

(5) (a) The power to regulate, supervise and monitor the primary dealers appointed under subsection (2), and under the Local Treasury Bills Ordinance (Chapter 417) and the Registered Stock and Securities Ordinance (Chapter 420) shall be vested with the Central Bank;

(b) The offences committed or that may be committed by a primary dealer under the Local Treasury Bills Ordinance (Chapter 417) and Registered Stock and Securities Ordinance (Chapter 420) shall be tried and proceeded with and be subject to the same punishment specified under the respective Ordinances and any investigation, examination that is or will be carried out or any suit, action or litigation instituted or to be instituted for such offences shall be carried out, heard or concluded as the case may be, under the provisions of the respective Ordinances.

(6) The Central Bank shall inform the Minister on non-compliance of the primary dealers with legal and regulatory requirements, which may constitute a ground for cancelation or suspension of its appointment as a primary dealer irrespective of its performance of duties as a primary dealer.

(7) The Minister may make regulations for the purpose of appointment of primary dealers and the conditions to be observed by, the privileges of and the duties to be performed by the primary dealers appointed under this Act.";

(8) All rules, regulations, directions, determinations, Orders, approvals or refusals, notices, circulars, operating instructions, code of conduct or any other written communication made or issued by the Minister or the Central Bank or any officer of the Central Bank in respect of the Primary dealers appointed under the Local Treasury Bills Ordinance (Chapter 417) and Registered Stock and Securities Ordinance (Chapter 420) and subsisting or having effect on the day immediately preceding the appointed day shall continue to be in operation and be applicable to primary dealers appointed under this Act.”,” and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 14 to 17 (both inclusive) in page 21.

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 27 to 29 (both inclusive) in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“(10) The Minister shall by Order published in the *Gazette* designate a securities depository system to electronically issue scripless securities, store holdings of and to record ownership and interests in such securities and to settle transactions in such securities in accordance with the relevant written law:

Provided that, until such designation is made, the Registry that is established and maintained by the Central Bank under the relevant laws for the securities issued by the Government shall continue to be in operation.”;

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 32

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 3 to 8 (both inclusive) in page 22 and substitute the following:—

“Act subject to such conditions, reservations and restrictions as may be specified in such Order other than his power to make regulations in accordance with the provisions of section 35.”;

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 33

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 14 and 15 in page 22 and substitute the following:—

“in writing in that behalf by the Minister.”;

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 34 and 35 were agreed to.

Clause 36

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“36. (1) The provisions of this Act shall have effect”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 13 in page 23:—

“(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the provisions of this Act shall prevail in relation to the authority of the Minister to borrow, issue Government debt securities, loan guarantees, supplier's credit agreements and finance lease agreements and the appointment of primary dealers to facilitate primary and secondary market transactions in Government debt securities.”;

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 37 was agreed to.

Clause 38

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 22 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“38. Any Government debt Securities, loan agreement,
finance lease agreement,”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out the marginal note in page 23 and substitute the following :—

“Arrangements for the applicability
of existing borrowing instruments”.

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 Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 29 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“prepared pursuant to relevant legislations for public”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 33 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“prescribed; and”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 2 in page 24 and substitute the following :—

“*inter alia*”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 20 in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“State owned enterprises” means, with the exception of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and financial institutions including insurance and leasing companies which part or all of whose business is to lend or borrow, an entity that is-”; and

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out lines 7 to 11 (both inclusive) in page 27 and substitute the following:—

“Government.”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed another amendment to leave out line 14 in page 27 and substitute the following :—

“under any written law for a specific purpose to which public finances are allocated excluding approved termination funds which includes thrift, savings or building society or welfare fund to which contributions are made by employees or, any gratuity fund maintained for the purpose of payment of gratuities to employees on the termination of their services under the relevant written law; and”

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 40 was agreed to.

Long Title

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed to substitute for the words “DEBT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND ISSUING GUARANTEES, ON-LENDING, ENTER INTO SUPPLIERS' CREDIT AND FINANCIAL LEASE”, of the words “DEBT AND ISSUING GUARANTEES ON-LENDING, ENTER INTO SUPPLIER'S CREDIT AND FINANCE LEASE”.

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

Question that the Long Title 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 Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies 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

10. Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3 (3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2364/37 of 31st December 2023, which was presented on 02.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Resolution under the Inland Revenue 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 this Parliament resolves under Section 75(1) of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 that the Convention between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of Tax Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, entered in to on 26th January 2023, which was presented on 24.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 1): 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2360/52 of 30th November 2023, which was presented on 25.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 2): 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2365/04 of 02nd January 2024, which was presented on 25.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 3) : 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2365/84 of 07th January 2024, which was presented on 25.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 4): 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2372/06 of 19th February 2024, which was presented on 25.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 5): 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 Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2373/42 of 01st March 2024, which was presented on 25.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

17. Regulation under the Inland Revenue 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 Regulation made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 123(8) of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017, as amended by the Inland Revenue (Amendment) Act, No. 4 of 2023 relating to the Information to be Shared on a Regular Basis to the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2376/25 of 21st March 2024, which was presented on 07.05.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

18. Regulations under the Welfare Benefits 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 President under Section 27 read with Sections 7(3), 8, 10, 11 and 12 of the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002 and Article 44(3) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, relating to Welfare Benefits and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2382/02 of 29th April 2024, which were presented on 22.05.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

19. Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy 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 Order made by the Acting Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2350/45 of 21st September 2023, which was presented on 22.02.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

20. Aswesuma Welfare Benefit Payment Scheme under the Welfare Benefits 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 Aswesuma Welfare Benefit Payment Scheme made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 9 of the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002, relating to Welfare Benefits and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2384/30 of 17th May 2024, which was presented on 04.06.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

21. Resolution under the Essential Public Services 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 this Parliament resolves that 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, which was presented on 06.06.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

22. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.