



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 31.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, June 19, 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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

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. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and
Youth Affairs

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

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and Chief
Government Whip

Hon. (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. Sivanessathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

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

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

Hon. Premalal Jayasekara, State Minister of Ports and Aviation

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries

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. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion

Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade

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. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana

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

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

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. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law

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. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
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. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
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. 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. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. C. Muthukumarana
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
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. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
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 that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled ‘Pavithra Wanniarachchi Sahurda Foundation (Incorporation)’, ‘International Institute of Theravadha (Incorporation)’ and ‘Public Debt Management’ on 18 June 2024.”

II

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Sathya Sri Ghanapathi Bhakthi Jana Sewa Foundation (Incorporation) Bill’:-

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda

Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa

Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena

Hon. Kins Nelson

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka”

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

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XLIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part LIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021; and
- (iii) Second Installment – Part L and Ninth Installment Parts XXXIII and XXXIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

(2) The Speaker presented the First Installment – Parts III and IV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(3) The Speaker presented the Special Audit Report on the Value Added Tax that should be charged to the Government, but has not yet been charged as per the sources of the Department of Inland Revenue in the Tenth Installment of the Report of the Auditor General in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the HDFC Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Reports of the District Secretariats of Kalutara, Gampaha, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Anuradhapura for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Multipurpose Development Task Force 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.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation 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 Fisheries presented the Reports on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Fisheries and the State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish and Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multiday Fishing Activities and Fish Exports in the reports of the Committee on Public Accounts which were presented to Parliament and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Sports Development for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Land Title Settlement Department for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Land Commissioner General's Department for the year 2023

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Public Security 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.

3. Presentation of Committee Reports: (1) Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, the Deputy Speaker and the Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee presented the Report of the Legislative Standing Committee on the Bill titled, “Shaili Edutainment Foundation (Incorporation)” together with the Minutes of proceedings.

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

Bill, as reported by Legislative Standing Committee, to be considered on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2360/22 of 27th November 2023; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2371/13 of 13th February 2024

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, the Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the First Report of the Committee on Public Accounts for the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament on the Evaluation of the Financial Compliance and Operational Performance of the State Institutions, Provincial Councils and Local Authorities by the Online Management Information System (MIS) for the Financial Year 2022.

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

(4) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Resolution under the Supplementary Estimate No. 1 of 2024;
- (ii) Regulation under the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010; and
- (iii) Report of the Independent Remuneration Committee on the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Salary Revision 2024-2026

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —

- (i) A petition dated 06.05.2024 from Mr. A.G. Sarath of Munamalpe, Medagewaththa, Udahagedara, Denipitiya;
- (ii) A petition dated 28.03.2024 from Mr. A.L.A. Priyadarshana of Bengamuwa Waththa, Panadugama, Akurassa;
- (iii) A petition dated 01.04.2024 from Mr. Lahiru Yasanka Nagasinghe of Bogahawaththa, Walgama South, Mathara;
- (iv) A petition dated 25.04.2024 from Mr. N.L.S. Prasanna of No. 1067/49/E, Thalagama North, Pothuarawa Road, Malabe;
- (v) A petition dated 05.04.2024 from Mr. S. Dahanayake of No. 40/30,, Wijethilakarama Road, Walgama North, Matara;
- (vi) A petition dated 22.02.2024 from Mrs. W.G. Gnanawathie of Near the Kovila Kanda, Waligama; and
- (vii) A petition dated 15.03.2024 from Mr. W.P.A.R. Wijesinghe of Step II, 48 Junction, Kiriwelkale, Pitabaddara.

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

5. Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements: The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,— Bill to make provision for the Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement in Sri Lanka of Judgments of Courts of other countries; and to repeal the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Ordinance (Chapter 93) and the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Ordinance (Chapter 94); and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, July 09, 2024, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society.

6. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 3 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 Casino Business (Regulation) 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 Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 4 read with Section 3 of the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010 relating to Issuance of Casino Business License and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2366/33 of 12th January 2024, which were presented on 02.04.2024, be approved.

(At 1.35 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Industries and Minister of Health moved,— That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 2.29 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

The Minister of Industries and Minister of Health moved,— That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 3.23 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 4.34 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

(At 4.48 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Casino Business (Regulation) 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 4 read with Section 3 of the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010 relating to Issuance of Casino Business License and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2369/42 of 02nd February 2024, which was presented on 02.04.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulation under the Casino Business (Regulation) 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 4 of the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010 relating to Casino Business Licensing Regulations, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2381/16 of 22nd April 2024, which was presented on 18.06.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. 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 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, which were presented on 06.06.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Supplementary Sum,— Head 001— Programme 02: 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 a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Million (Rs. 8,750,000,000) shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, or any other fund or money of, or at the disposal of, the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or from the proceeds of any loans obtained by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the services of the financial year beginning of 01st January, 2024, and ending on 31st December, 2024, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the schedule hereto:—

SCHEDULE

Head 001	-	His Excellency the President
Programme 02	-	Development Activities •
	Capital Expenditure	Rs. 8,750,000,000
	Total Expenditure	<u>Rs. 8,750,000,000</u>

- Allocation of Rupees Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Million (Rs. 8,750,000,000) will be made by Transferring the unutilized allocations expected under Sub Projects No. 024, 025, 026, 027, 028 and 032 of the Project 06 — “National Level Guidance and Coordination for National Priorities”, Programme 02 — Development Programme of the Head 001, to the Sub Project No. 003.

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 01 of 2024 presented on 07th June, 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Resolution under the Coconut Development Act: The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That this Parliament resolves under sub section (1) of section 33 of the Coconut Development Act, No 46 of 1971, that the cess shall be charged, levied and paid in-respect of uncompressed and compressed coir pith exported under HS code 1404-90-93 specified in column I of the schedule hereto the rate specified in the column II of the schedule:

Schedule

HS Heading	HS Code	<i>Column I</i>	<i>Column II</i>
		Coconut Product	CESS Amount
	1404-90-93	Coconut coir pith (Compressed or Uncompressed)	10 cents per kg

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Adjournment: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—
That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.20 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024.