



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 32.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

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

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

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

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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. (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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe, State Minister of Women and
Child Affairs

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

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

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

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence

Hon. 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. 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. 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. 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. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

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

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

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

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Weerasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
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. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
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. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker : The Deputy Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Hon. Speaker has endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled ‘Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers of Sri Lanka (Incorporation)’ and ‘Dedigama Sri Maithri Pragnartha Bouddha Educational Daham Sabhawa (Incorporation)’ on 19 June 2024.”

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

- (i) Performance Report of the Excise Department of Sri Lanka for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Census and Statistics 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.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Environment 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.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Finance Commission for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Kelaniya for the year 2022 and moved that this Report and Accounts be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Department of Posts 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.

(6) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Reports of the National Sports Fund for the years 2021 and 2022 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Education presented the Performance Report of the Department for Registration of Persons for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee presented the Report of the said Committee on the Bill titled, “Samadhi Meditation and Yoga Centre (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 Tuesday, 09th, July 2024.

(2) Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya, Member of the Committee, on behalf of the Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender presented the Report of the Committee on —

(i) Performance Report of the Department of Samurdhi Development for the year 2022; and

(ii) Annual Report of the National Child Protection Authority for the year 2020 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education presented the Report of the Committee on a Bill to provide for the establishment of the National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and for matters connected therewith or incidental; thereto which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, Chair of the Committee on Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of the Rubber Development Department for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tea Board for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority for the year 2022;
- (iv) Annual Reports of the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka -Talawakelle for the years 2020 and 2021;
- (v) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation for the year 2020;
- (vii) Annual Reports of the Elkaduwa Plantations Limited for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017; and
- (viii) Annual Report of the Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited for the year 2020/2021

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Douglas Devananda presented a petition dated 10.11.2023 from Mr. T Gopalakrishnan of 607, Bar Road, Batticaloa.
- (2) Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 19.05.2024 from Mr. U K Rathnaweera of “Udaya”, Near the Hospital, Nakulugamuwa.

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

5. Immigration: The Minister of Public Security presented,— Bill to make provisions for controlling the entry into and departure of persons from Sri Lanka; controlling the stay of persons in Sri Lanka who are not citizens of Sri Lanka; for the issue of travel documents; for the repeal of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act (Chapter 351) and the Passport (Regulation) and Exit Permit Act, No. 53 of 1971; 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 An Open & Accountable Government.

6. Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties in relation to preparation for the proposed ‘Business Ready (B-READY) Index’ in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties in relation to preparation for the proposed ‘Business Ready (B-READY) Index’ in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 22nd March 2024, be extended up to 22nd July 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 09th, 2024.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Leave to introduce Bill: Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam, seconded by Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate Colombo Association of Language Skills and Dramatic Art.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Education for report.

9. Women Empowerment Bill: Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (04th June 2024).

“That the Bill be now read a Second Time”, question again proposed; and debate resumed.

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Provincial Councils, Local Government and Environment moved,— That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 1.54 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

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

Question put and agreed to.

(At 4.11 p.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 4.46 p.m. Deputy 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 Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law on behalf of Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna proposed an amendment to insert the following new sub-clause immediately after line 5 in page 3 of the Bill in Sinhala Language:—

“(ඒ) සමාන වටිනාකමකින් යුත් රැකියා සඳහා ස්ත්‍රීන් හා පුරුෂයන් අතර සමාන වේතනයක් ලබාදීම තහවුරු කිරීම සඳහා නීති හා ක්‍රියාමාර්ග සංශෝධනය කිරීම ප්‍රවර්ධනය කිරීම”

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

Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga proposed an amendment to leave out the words “ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂභාවය සහ ලිංගික දිශානතිය” in line 13 in page 2 of the Bill in Sinhala Language and substitute the following:—

“කාන්තාවන්ගේ ලිංගිකත්වය”

Question that the amendments be agreed to put, and negatived; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 05; Noes: 14; Abstain: 03

The following Twenty One (21) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 006. Susil Premajayantha	No
G 026. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva	No
G 027. Janaka Wakkumbura	No
G 030. Thenuka Vidanagamage	No
G 032. Lasantha Alagiyawanna	No
G 033. Rohana Dissanayaka	No
G 036. Vijitha Berugoda	No
G 054. Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe	No
G 058. Anupa Pasqual	Abstain
G 070. Sarath Weerasekara	Yes
G 083. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	No
G 091. Kulasingam Dhileeban	No
G 092. Sudarshana Denipitiya	No
O 017. A. L. M. Athaullah	No
O 054. Wimal Weerawansa	Yes
O 057. Harini Amarasuriya	Abstain
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	Abstain
O 088. Sudarshini Fernandopulle	No
O 090. Jayantha Samaraweera	Yes
O 106. Wasantha Yapabandara	Yes
O 109. Gevindu Cumaratunga	Yes

The following Member of Parliament (01) cast her vote having being asked the names by the Secretary-General of Parliament under the Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Parliament as follows:—

(Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake No

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

Clause 3 was agreed to.

Clause 4

Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga proposed an amendment to leave out lines 20 to 25 (both inclusive) in page 3 of the Bill in Sinhala Language and substitute the following:—

“(අ) ඇමතිතුමා විසින් කොමිෂන් සභාවේ සාමාජිකයන් පස් දෙනෙකු ද

(ආ) කතානායකවරයා විසින් පත් කරන ලද පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ
මන්ත්‍රීවරියන්ගේ සංඝදයේ සාමාජිකයන් දෙදෙනෙකු ද

යෝජනා කළ යුතු අතර ආණ්ඩුක්‍රම ව්‍යවස්ථා සභාවේ අනුමැතියට යටත්ව
ජනාධිපතිතුමා විසින් අදාළ පත්වීම් කළ යුතු ය”

Question that the amendments be agreed to put, and negatived; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 11; Noes: 14; Abstain: 01

The following Twenty Five (25) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 006. Susil Premajayantha	No
G 026. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva	No
G 027. Janaka Wakkumbura	No
G 030. Thenuka Vidanagamage	No
G 032. Lasantha Alagiyawanna	No
G 033. Rohana Dissanayaka	No
G 036. Vijitha Berugoda	No
G 054. Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe	No
G 058. Anupa Pasqual	No
G 070. Sarath Weerasekara	Yes
G 083. Sanjeeva Edirimanna	No
G 091. Kulasingam Dhileeban	No
G 092. Sudarshana Denipitiya	Abstain
G 095. Muditha Prishanthi	No
G 110. Manjula Dissanayake	No
O 006. Gayantha Karunatileka	Yes
O 007. Lakshman Kiriella	Yes
O 017. A. L. M. Athaullah	No
O 054. Wimal Weerawansa	Yes
O 057. Harini Amarasuriya	Yes
O 075. Chandima Weerakkody	Yes
O 088. Sudarshini Fernandopulle	Yes
O 090. Jayantha Samaraweera	Yes
O 106. Wasantha Yapabandara	Yes
O 109. Gevindu Cumaratunga	Yes

The following Member of Parliament (01) cast her vote having being asked the names by the Secretary-General of Parliament under the Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Parliament as follows:—

Jagath Priyankara Yes

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

Clause 5 was agreed to.

Clause 6

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya proposed an amendment to leave out line 29 in page 7 of the Bill in Sinhala Language and substitute the following:—

“කොමිෂන් සභාව සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කොට අමාත්‍යවරයා විසින් අනුමත කරගනු ලැබිය යුතුය”

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 7 to 9 were agreed to.

Clause 10

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out line 2 in page 11 and substitute the following:—

“supported by a resolution passed by a majority of the total”;

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 11 to 16 were agreed to.

Clause 17

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 12 in page 14:—

“Provided further, the Commission shall not inquire any application regarding infringement or imminent infringement of women’s rights, if inquiry has already been conducted by the Ombuds under section 29 and in such event the Commission shall act in accordance with the provisions of that section.”

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 Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out line 15 in page 15 and substitute the following:—

“the period of one month within which an application may”;

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 19 was agreed to.

Clause 20

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“parties to appear before the panel of mediators appointed under section 22;”;

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 Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out lines 21 and 22 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“20 or subsection (3) of section 36, the panel of mediators appointed under section 22, shall-”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed another amendment to leave out lines 29 and 30 in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“sixty days from the date on which the dispute referred to the panel of mediators; and”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed another amendment to leave out lines 3 to 9 (both inclusive) in page 17.

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 Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out lines 12 and 13 in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“the parties shall be reduced to writing, by the panel of mediators, in the form of an”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed another amendment to leave out line 16 in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“panel of mediators shall forward a copy of the agreement to the”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed another amendment to leave out line 26 in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“ panel of mediators shall accordingly report the situation to the ”;

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 23 to 28 were agreed to.

Clause 29

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out lines 15 and 16 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“29.(1) There shall be appointed a person who shall be called and known as the”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed another amendment to leave out line 19 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

“entertaining any complaint referred to him by an aggrieved person connected”;

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

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed another amendment to leave out lines 15 and 16 in page 24.

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 30 was agreed to.

Clause 31

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out line 17 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“other welfare and security schemes for the benefit”;

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 Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out line 19 in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“32.(1) There shall be established for the purposes of this”;

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law on behalf of Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna proposed an amendment to leave out lines 15 to 17 (both inclusive) in page 27 of the Bill in Sinhala Language and substitute the following:—

“කොමිෂන් සභාව විසින් අරමුදලේ පවත්නා ඊට වහාම අවශ්‍ය නොවන මුදල් කොමිෂන් සභාව විසින් තීරණය කරනු ලබන පරිදි කාන්තාවන් සම්බල ගැන්වීමට සහාය වන්නාවූ වැඩසටහන්වල ආයෝජනය කරනු ලැබිය හැකිය.”

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 Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out lines 22 to 24 (both inclusive) in page 30 and substitute the following:—

“(4) The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 21 shall apply to a matter referred to mediation under subsection (3).”;

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 37 to 41 were agreed to.

Clause 42

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed an amendment to leave out line 18 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“date as may be specified thereon.”;

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 43 and 44 were agreed to.

New Clauses

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed to insert the following new clause immediately after line 8 in page 3:—

“Protection and
advancement of
women’s rights

3. Every woman shall be entitled to women’s
rights and no woman shall be denied of such
rights.”

Question that the Clause be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Question that the Clause be added to the Bill, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed to insert another new Clause immediately after line 9 in page 17:—

Appointment of
Panel of Mediators

22.(1) For the purpose of sections 20, 21 and 36, there shall be a Panel of Mediators consisting of five members appointed by the Commission, from among the persons who have proven knowledge, experience and eminence in the fields of law, administration, education or empowerment of women.

(2) Code of conduct for the Panel of Mediators, term of office, and remuneration of the members of the Panel of Mediators shall be as prescribed.

(3) The Commission shall make rules setting out the procedure which shall apply to the conduct of mediation proceedings.”.

Question that the Clause be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Question that the Clause be added to the Bill, put and agreed to.

Long title

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment proposed to leave out the long title and substitute the following:—

“AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN; TO PROVIDE FOR THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON ADVANCEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN; TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON WOMEN; TO MAKE PROVISIONS TO APPOINT OMBUDS FOR THE WOMEN’S RIGHTS; TO ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND TO PROSECUTE AGAINST THE VIOLATIONS OF SUCH RIGHTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO”

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 Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment 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. Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Bill, accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Education 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Clause 5

The Minister of Education proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 24 in page 9:—

- “(xiv) the secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of forest conservation or his nominee not below the rank of an additional secretary;
- (xv) the secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of wildlife conservation or his nominee not below the rank of an additional secretary;
- (xvi) an officer of the Central Cultural Fund nominated by the secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of culture;
- (xvii) the Conservator-General of Forest appointed under section 58 of the Forest Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 451);
- (xviii) the Director-General of Wildlife appointed under section 68 of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469);”;

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 6 to 10 were agreed to.

Clause 11

The Minister of Education proposed an amendment to leave out line 14 in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“shall be not less than one third of its total membership and every meeting of the”.

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 12 to 37 were 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 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.

11. Adjournment (Expeditious Implementation of E-Motoring Project): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m., Parliament was at 6.40 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 09, 2024, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.