



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 36.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, July 11, 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. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries

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

Hon. Nalin Fernando, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

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

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

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

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. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy

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

Hon. 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. 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. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
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. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
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. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda, Attorney at Law
Hon. K. S. Kugathasan
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
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. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilake
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
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. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

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

I

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Weerasena Gamage, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs by the Committee of Selection on 03 July 2024, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 130(3) of the Parliament to fill the vacancy occurred due to the demise of the Hon. H. Nandasena.”

II

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Weerasena Gamage, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development by the Committee of Selection on 03 July 2024, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 130(3) of the Parliament to fill the vacancy occurred due to the demise of the Hon. H. Nandasena.”

III

“I wish to inform that the Hon. S. C. Muthukumarana, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence by the Committee of Selection on 03 July 2024, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 130(3) of the Parliament to fill the vacancy occurred due to the demise of the Hon. H. Nandasena.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Parliament of Sri Lanka 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.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Reports of the Sections of the General Education, Higher Education and Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation of the Ministry of Education for the year 2023 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Mass Media 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: Hon. Tissa Attanayake, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the Second Report of the Committee on Public Accounts for the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Anura Dissanayaka presented —

- (i) A petition dated 05.04.2024 from Mr. D. G. Premasiri of Mipiti Kanda, Waththa Road, Yatiyanthota;
- (ii) A petition dated 30.03.2024 from Mrs. H.D. Nimala Gerty of No. 6/12, 01st step, Pullertonwatt, Gamagoda Road, Kalutara South;
- (iii) A petition dated 24.04.2024 from Mrs. R. Ranjani Perera of “Dewmini”, Ilukketiya, Wanchawala; and
- (iv) A petition dated 23.04.2024 from Mrs. S.M.M.G. Chandra Kumari of No. 72 A, Girihagama, Kumburegama.

(2) Hon. Tissa Attanayake presented —

(i) A petition dated 07.06.2024 from Mrs. D. Jayani Nimanthika of No. 935/10, Digana Nilagama, Digana; and

(ii) A petition dated 27.05.2024 from Mrs. L. Krishnakanthi of No. 156/6, Ranavirugama, Aluviharaya, Matale.

(3) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —

(i) A petition dated 31.05.2024 from Mr. P.K. Nishantha of No. 101, Bandaranayakapura, Kekanadura, Matara; and

(ii) A petition dated 14.06.2024 from Mr. P.V. Rathnapala of No. 18/48, Rajapaksha Hena, Hiththatiya Central, Matara.

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

5. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 10.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. 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 20th June 2024, be extended up to 22nd August 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. Adjournment (Holding of Presidential Election as prescribed by Constitution and other Applicable Laws): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Education moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 11.50 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law, seconded by Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren moved,— That Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 1.24 p.m. Hon. Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Defence moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 4.32 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka, seconded by Hon. Mujibur Rahuman moved,— That Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama do take the Chair

Question put and agreed to.

(At 5.03 p.m. Hon. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024.