



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 37.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, July 12, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Industries and Minister of Health

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

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

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

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. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

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

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of
Agriculture

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion

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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda, Attorney at Law
Hon. K. S. Kugathasan
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. 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. Kins Nelson

Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Dhammika Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
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. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh

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

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Marjan Faleel

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. Presentation of Papers: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Audit Service 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.

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

- (i) Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 32 read with Section 25 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2366/39 of 12th January 2024

(Excise Notification No. 02/2024); and

- (ii) Mid-Year Fiscal Position Report of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies for the year 2024

and moved that the Notification and the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Free Trade Agreement between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Thailand together with the booklet containing the summary of the said Agreement.

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

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the National Library and Documentation Services Board for the year 2020 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Sections 6 and 10 read with Section 63 of the Debt Conciliation Ordinance (Chapter 81) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2381/23 of 22nd April 2024 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department of the Registrar of Companies for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Electricity Board for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department of Immigration and Emigration 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. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society presented the Report of the Committee on Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the Outsourcing Online Visa and Passport Application Services between the Consortium and the Department of Immigration and Emigration of Sri Lanka which was referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala presented —

(i) A petition dated 11.06.2024 from Mr. A.U. Madhura Wijayapala of Ambanpola, Melsiripura; and

(ii) A petition dated 09.06.2024 from Mrs. G.A. Subhadra of No. 185 - B, Unapatha Yaya, Galagedara.

- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda presented a petition dated 02.05.2024 from Mr. M.A.Kaushal Mendis of No. 139/13, (1011), Darshana Mawatha, Pannipitiya Road, Baththaramulla.

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

4. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 24(2) of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.28 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

5. Preparation of a programme to strengthen the audit and legal sections of the Ministry of Sports: Hon. Rohana Bandara, seconded by Hon. Heshu Withanage moved,— That this parliament resolves that, whereas, many sports associations in Sri Lanka including cricket have become extremely corrupt at present, the government should develop a programme aimed at strengthening the audit and legal sections of the Ministry of Sports to effectively mitigate this situation. (P.40/2024)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.40 a.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.00 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.47 a.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. The need for preventing religious extremism: Hon. Heshu Withanage, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should prepare an expeditious program to prevent the attempts made to surface and promote religious extremism and to rehabilitate those who have already become victims of it, since having extremist views in any field in any country can be immensely harmful, whereas there has been a serious discourse in society regarding religious extremism following the Easter Sunday attack taken place. (P.10/2024)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Filling all public sector job vacancies on the basis of Z-score obtained by students in the G.C.E (Advance Level) Examination: Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, seconded by Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should take necessary measures to take into account the Z-score obtained in the G.C.E (Advance Level) Examination by the students when filling vacancies at all government departments, corporations, authorities, boards and provincial councils affiliated institutions, whereas the policies adopted by the former and existing governments in recruitment to the public service on the basis of political allegiance or preferences have seriously damaged the independence of the public service, and due to the fact that it is necessary to make the highly politicized public service completely independent, as giving jobs only on the basis of educational qualification will ensure justice and fairness to the talented and qualified youth, and eradicate youth unrest, and as the vacancies arising in the district would be given to the residents of the respective district will assure the economic security of the employees and create the opportunity to get a highly efficient service to the public sector. (P.18/2024)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.10 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, seconded by Hon. Mujibur Rahuman moved,—That Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.25 p.m. Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Declaring the Day of the Martyrs of the Hill Country Trade Union: Hon. Velu Kumar, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Hill Country Trade Union Martyrs Day be declared in order to commemorate the first worker and all the martyrs who laid down their lives in the pursuit of non-violent struggle for the rights and welfare of the plantation workers and that the day shall be set on the 10th of January as it aligns with the sacrifice of the first Hill Country martyr, “Mulloya Govinthan”, who had been shot dead by a white

national, during the first trade union struggle for salary hikes of plantation workers in Sri Lanka unfolded from December 1939 to January 1940, and whereas through democratic means, the Hill Country plantation workers have fervently fought for and secured their rights and as a testament to their struggles, the Hill Country people of Indian origin have long demanded that these martyrs who selflessly laid down their lives in the pursuit of democracy be commemorated on a designated day, and the Hill Country plantation workers stand as a community in Sri Lanka's history, having made significant contributions to its economic growth. (P.37/2024)

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan moved,—That Hon. D. Weerasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.09 p.m. Hon. D. Weerasingha took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Minimizing the damage caused to bio-diversity by invasive plants and animals: Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, seconded by Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should make interventions to identify and name the invasive plants and animals that can cause damage to bio-diversity in Sri Lanka and to prohibit breeding and importing of such plants and animals in order to protect the environment in Sri Lanka and that appropriate action should be taken promptly to formulate necessary laws in that regard. (P.1/2024)

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put and agreed to; Parliament was at 3.03 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2024.