



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 40.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, July 25, 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. (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. (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. 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. 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. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivanesathurai 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. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries

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. 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 and Environment

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance

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. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
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. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
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. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Weerasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
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. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. C. Muthukumarana
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
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. 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. 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

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Acting Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Order made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to Colombo International Container Terminals Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2382/33 of 03rd May 2024 and moved that this Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Performance Report of the Department of Buddhist Affairs 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.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the Economic Transformation Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

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

3. 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 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 01 April 2024 be extended up to 27 September 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.

5. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1): Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna, seconded by Hon. Buddhika Pathirana moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Land Development Ordinance (Chapter 464).”

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 Tourism and Lands for report.

6. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2): Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law, seconded by Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Association of Cricket Umpires, Sri Lanka.”

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 Sports and Youth Affairs for report.

7. Public Financial 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.

The State Minister of Plantation Industries and Mahaweli Development moved,— That Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 11.08 a.m. Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Finance moved,— That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 12.09 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security moved,— That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 2.02 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

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

Question put and agreed to.

(At 4.23 p.m. Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama took the Chair.)

(At 5.03 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

The 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were 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 lines 21 to 25 (both inclusive) in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“(b) officers and employees of public entities to whom a power or duty is conferred, delegated or assigned under this Act or any regulation made thereunder, including a Chief Accounting Officer, Accounting Officer or a competent authority referred to in Part VI of this Act.”;

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 4 was agreed to.

Clause 5

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 12 in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“(f) subject to the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, formulate policies and strategies for the effective”;

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 6

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 12 and 13 in page 7 and substitute the following:—

“(3) Notwithstanding the Secretary to the Treasury having ceased to hold office, any delegation made 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 7 to 31 were 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 9 to 16 (both inclusive) in page 28 and substitute the following:—

“(3) The National Procurement Commission may, if it deems necessary, formulate and publish in the *Gazette* specific guidelines for State Owned Enterprises and Provincial Councils.”;

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 was agreed to.

Clause 34

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 18 in page 29 and substitute the following:—

“(2) There shall be a treasury single account to maintain the revenue and expenditure of the Consolidated Fund, which 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 35 was 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 20 in page 30 and substitute the following:—

“other information systems shall be ensured by periodic review and evaluation”;

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 lines 25 to 29 (both inclusive) in page 31.

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 5 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“directives on statutory funds in respect of which any other written law does not provide for such matters.”;

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 40 to 46 were agreed to.

Clause 47

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 15 to 17 (both inclusive) in page 41 and substitute the following:—

“the concurrence of the Minister of Finance:

Provided however, the accounts of every budgetary entity shall reflect all necessary information.”;

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 48 to 53 were agreed to.

Clause 54

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 52 and substitute the following:—

“54. (1) Where any loss has been caused”;

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 4 in page 52 and substitute the following:—

“regulations or directives issued under this Act, such loss shall be recovered from the officer or officers responsible.”;

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 55 to 59 were agreed to.

Clause 60

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 24 (both inclusive) in page 55 and substitute the following:—

“60. (1) (a) Where applicable, there shall be a dividend policy that shall be set by the respective governing bodies of State-Owned Enterprises, in consultation with the Secretary to the Treasury.

(b) The Minister of Finance may impose a levy on State-Owned Enterprise where applicable and may exempt a State-Owned Enterprise from the imposition of such levy. Such levy shall be published in the annual report under subsection (3) of section 53.”;

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 61 and 62 were agreed to.

Clause 63

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 20 in page 57 and substitute the following:—

“(2) Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, the responsibilities of the Minister of Finance 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.

Clauses 64 to 67 were agreed to.

Clause 68

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 61 and substitute the following:—

“68. (I) The Secretary to the Treasury may issue to the public entities and persons referred to in subsection (2) of section 3, directives”;

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 69

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 15 to 23 (both inclusive) in page 61.

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 70 was agreed to.

Clause 71

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 24 to 27 (both inclusive) in page 65.

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 16 to 19 (both inclusive) in page 70 and substitute the following:—

“with the exception of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.”.

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 72 was 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.

8. Economic Transformation 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

The 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 23 and 24 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“Short title and date of operation 1. (1) 'This Act may be cited as the Economic Transformation Act, No. of 2024.

(2) The provisions of this Act other than the provisions of Part II, Part III and section 194 shall come into operation on the date on which the certificate of the Speaker is endorsed in respect of this Act in terms of Article 79 of the Constitution.

(3) The provisions of Part II, Part III and section 194 shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may appoint by Order published in the *Gazette*, which shall be a date within three months from the date of the certificate of the Speaker referred to in subsection (2) (hereinafter referred to as the “appointed date”).”;

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 2 was 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 lines 1 and 2 in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“(iii) Central Government Annual Debt Service in Foreign Currency to Gross Domestic”;

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 to 7 were 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 8 in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“43 and Article 148 of the Constitution, shall have 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 9 to 12 were 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 lines 3 to 23 (both inclusive) in page 12.

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 19 in page 14:—

“(p) to purchase, hold and sell shares, stocks, debentures
and similar assets;”;

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 was agreed to.

Clause 15

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 19 to 28 (both inclusive) in page 16 and substitute the following:—

“(2) Where whole or part of Investment Zone is private land, the notice published under subsection (1) shall, in respect such private land, be deemed to be a notice published under section 2 of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 450) and the provisions of that Act shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in relation to such private land.

(3) The President may make or execute a grant or any other alienation or disposition of any State land within any Investment Zone to the Zones SL, subject to the condition that any such State land shall not be alienated for private use except to the developers, operators or enterprises or other body of persons established within such Investment Zone.

(4) Upon a grant, alienation or disposition made or executed under subsection (3), the Zones SL shall, subject to conditions specified therein, be responsible for the use of such land.”;

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 12 to 17 (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.

Clauses 16 to 25 were agreed to.

Clause 26

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 10 in page 25:—

“(2) The qualifications and experience of the person who shall be appointed as the EC Director General and the terms and conditions of employment of the EC Director General shall be as prescribed by regulations.”;

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 31 were 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 10 and 11 in page 31 and substitute the following:—

“Transformation as specified in sections 3 and 4, and forward the same to the President and 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 33 to 36 were agreed to.

Clause 37

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 3 and 4 in page 34 and substitute the following:—

“favourable than that accorded to domestic investors, in like circumstance, as regards acquisition, expansion,;

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 38 to 44 were agreed to.

Clause 45

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 20 in page 41 and substitute the following:—

“Schedule to this part to be granted to investments, from time to”;

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 24 in page 41 and substitute the following:—

“Provided, however, that investments shall remain eligible”;

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 46

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 1 to 9 (both inclusive) in page 43 and substitute the following:—

“(5) If a Specified Institution refuses, denies or fails to respond to an inquiry or request as per the regulations made under subsection (1) or (4), the Economic Commission shall if deemed appropriate, refer such refusal, denial or failure to the Minister forthwith, who shall, within two weeks refer the matter to the Cabinet of Ministers for appropriate action.”;

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 47 was agreed to.

Clause 48

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 2 and 3 in page 44 and substitute the following:—

“members appointed by the Economic Commission.”;

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 49 to 52 were agreed to.

Clause 53

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 47 and substitute the following:—

“officer or employee of the Economic Commission or any member
of the Invest SL Board, for any act which in good;

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 54 was agreed to.

Clause 55

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 48 and substitute the following:—

“may, in consultation with the EC Board, make
regulations”;

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 16 to 18 (both inclusive) in page 49 and substitute the following:—

“of commencement of this Act were entitled,”;

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 19 and 20 in page 29.

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 56 was agreed to.

Clause 57

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 23 in page 50 and substitute the following:—

“57. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to 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 insert the following immediately after line 31 in page 50:—

“(2) Every Order made under this section shall, within three months after it is made, be laid before Parliament for approval and such Order shall become operative only upon receipt of the approval therefor of Parliament.”;

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 58 to 63 were agreed to.

Clause 64

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 28 and 29 in page 60.

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 65 to 74 were agreed to.

Clause 75

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 20 in page 68:—

“(2) The qualifications and experience of the person who shall be appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Zones SL and the terms and conditions of employment of the Chief Executive Officer of Zones SL shall be as prescribed by regulations.”;

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 76 to 89 were agreed to.

Clause 90

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 18 (both inclusive) in page 81 and substitute the following:—

“Ministries, Government departments, agencies, Zones SL, regulatory authorities or bodies named by the Cabinet of Ministers on the recommendation of the Minister 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 31 in page 81 and substitute the following:—

“shall be provided in writing within such period of twenty-one”;

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 to 17 (both inclusive) in page 82 and substitute the following:—

“(5) If a Specified Institution refuses, denies or fails to respond to an inquiry or request as per the regulations made under subsection (1) or (4), the Zones SL shall if deemed appropriate, refer such refusal, denial or failure to the Minister forthwith, who shall, within two weeks refer the matter to the Cabinet of Ministers for appropriate action.”;

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 91 to 93 were agreed to.

Clause 94

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 to 8 (both inclusive) in page 84 and substitute the following:—

“preceding date of commencement of this Act were entitled;”;

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 95 was agreed to.

Clause 96

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 85 and substitute the following:—

“96. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to 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 insert the following immediately after line 9 in page 85:—

“(2) Every Order made under this section shall, within three months after it is made, be laid before Parliament for approval and such Order shall become operative only upon receipt of the approval therefor of Parliament.”;

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 97 to 146 were agreed to.

Clause 147

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 7 and 8 in page 122 and substitute the following:—

“Director”), whose qualifications and experience and the terms and conditions of employment shall be as prescribed by regulations.”;
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.

Clauses 148 to 174 were agreed to.

Clause 175

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 12 in page 141:—

“(2) The qualifications and experience of the person who shall be appointed as the Director and the terms and conditions of employment of the Director shall be as prescribed by regulations.”.

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 176 to 191 were agreed to.

Clause 192

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 8 to 22 (both inclusive) in page 150.

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 193 was agreed to.

Clause 194

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out lines 29 and 30 in page 152 and substitute the following:—

“under this Act, and such regulations, rules, directives and Orders may be amended, rescinded or altered”;

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 and 5 in page 153 and substitute the following:—

“subparagraph (ii), with effect from the date of commencement of this Act, be deemed to be”;

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 and 15 in page 155 and substitute the following:—

“be deemed, with effect from the date of commencement of this Act, to be suits, actions;

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 33 (both inclusive) in page 156 and substitute the following:—

“(m) the officers and employees of the BOI holding office on the day immediately preceding the date of commencement of this Act-

- (i) shall be deemed, with effect from the date of commencement of this Act, to be officers and employees of the Economic Commission, on terms and conditions not less favourable than the terms and conditions of employment to which they were entitled; and
- (ii) attached to licensed zones shall be deemed, with effect from the date of commencement of this Act to be officers and employees of the Zones SL, on terms and conditions not less favourable than the terms and conditions of employment to which they were entitled:

Provided that the period that an employee served with the BOI shall be taken into consideration when calculating the statutory payments that are payable to such employee;

- (n) the officers and employees of the BOI holding office on the day immediately preceding the date of commencement of this Act, who do not opt to join the service of the Economic Commission or the Zones SL, shall be paid such compensation in terms of a voluntary retirement scheme as shall be prescribed by the Minister:

Provided that such voluntary retirement scheme shall be published on a date not more than one month after the date of commencement of this Act, and every officer or employee deemed to be an officer or employee of the Economic Commission or Zones SL under paragraph (m) shall communicate his option within one month of the date of publication of the voluntary retirement scheme.”;

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 1 to 5 in page 157.

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 9 to 12 (both inclusive) in page 157 and substitute the following:—

“shall continue to exercise all powers exercised by the BOI in respect of and over Areas of Authority, licensed zones, licensed enterprises and area enterprises, established in terms or under the authority of the repealed Law. Without limiting”

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 195

The Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 158 and substitute the following:—

““area enterprise” means an enterprise with 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 insert the following immediately after line 7 in page 158:—

“BOI” means the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka established by the repealed Law;”;

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 17 and 18 page 158.

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 23 in page 158 and substitute the following:—

“Minister” for the purpose of Parts II and III and this”;

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 196

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 5 (both inclusive) in page 159 and substitute the following:—

“**196.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.”.

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.

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.

9. Adjournment: And it being past 5.30 p.m., Parliament was at 5.52 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, July 26, 2024.