



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 39.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, July 24, 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. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and
Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and
Aviation

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. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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. 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. 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. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils, Local Government and Environment

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. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology

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. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

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

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren

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. 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. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. 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. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. C. Muthukumarana
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza

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. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
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. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
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. Messages from the President: The Deputy Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/4/5/1

July 22, 2024

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,


Ranil Wickremesinghe
President

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Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Announcements by the Speaker: The Deputy Speaker made the following announcements:—

“In terms of Standing Order 113(2) of Parliament, the Hon. Speaker has nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Institute of Drafting Technologists Sri Lanka (Incorporation)’ Bill:-

Hon. Kanaka Herath

Hon. D. V. Chanaka

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara”

3. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Language Education and Training for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and National Unity.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Inland Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Jaffna 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.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Phosphate Ltd for the year 2022/2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Energies (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Police for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees: Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the Public Financial Management Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

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

5. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— 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. Adjournment (New Legislation to Protect Society from Artificial Intelligence-related Harmful Activities): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 12.14 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera, seconded by Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law moved,— That Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.21 p.m. Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya took the Chair.)

Hon. Rohana Bandara, seconded by Hon. Nimal Piyathissa moved,— That Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.37 p.m. Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; accordingly the Parliament was at 3.43 p.m. adjourned until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2024.