



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 2.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, December 03, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. (Dr.) Asoka Sapumal Ranwala, Speaker

Hon. (Dr.) Rizvie Salih, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. (Mrs.) Hemali Weerasekara, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

Hon. A.H.M.H. Abayarathna, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing

Hon. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayatissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media and Chief Government Whip

Hon. (Prof.) Anil Jayantha, Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development

Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Minister of Justice and National Integration

Hon. Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment

Hon. (Dr.) Upali Pannilage, Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

Hon. (Mrs.) Saroja Savithri Paulraj, Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Ananda Wijepala, Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. K.V. Samantha Vidyarathna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

Hon. Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

Hon. Namal Karunaratne, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

Hon. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways

Hon. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment

Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour

Hon. Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence

Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports

Hon. Gamagedara Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of National Integration

Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism

Hon. Susil Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation

Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media

Hon. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing
Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs
Hon. Harshana Suriyapperuma, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning
Hon. P. Ruwan Senarath, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education
Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment
Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
Hon. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama
Hon. (Snr. Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
Hon. Arkam Ilyas
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi

Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon

Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Mohamed Sali Naleem
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Snr. Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila

Hon. Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana

Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Dinindu Saman
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasinga
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath
Hon. Muhammad Faizal
Hon. Riyas Farook

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. Official Oath or Affirmation by new Members : Hon. Muhammathu Saali Naleem, Member of Parliament, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Member's Roll at the Table.

2. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following messages received from the President:—



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President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/7/IX/3/01

November 27, 2024

Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
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,


Anura Kumara Dissanayake
President

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Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

3. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Speaker of the Ninth Parliament had endorsed the certificate on the ‘National Minimum Wage of Workers (Amendment)’ Bill on 11 September 2024 and ‘Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments’ and ‘Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment)’ Bills on 13 September 2024.”

II

“I wish to inform this House that the Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, M.P. has been appointed as the Chief Opposition Whip in the Tenth Parliament.”

III

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have nominated the following Members of Parliament to serve in the Panel of Chairs for the First Session of the Tenth Parliament, in terms of Standing Order 143 of the Parliament:—

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
 Hon. Imran Maharroof
 Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
 Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
 Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
 Hon. (Snr. Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
 Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
 Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
 Hon. Aravinda Senarath
 Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj”

4. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Third Installment – Part XIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2016;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part XLVIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2018;
- (iii) Third Installment – Part XXI and Ninth Installment – Part XLIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;
- (iv) Ninth Installment – Part XLIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (v) Second Installment – Parts LV and LVI and Ninth Installment – Part XLII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021;
- (vi) Second Installment – Parts LIV, LV and LVI and Ninth Installment – Parts XXXIX and XL of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022; and

- (vii) Second Installment – Parts VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX and XX, Third Installment – Parts III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI and Ninth Installment – Parts II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said, Reports do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Speaker tabled the Financial Statements and the Independent Auditor's Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements of the National Audit Office for the year 2022 in terms of Section 36(3) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 which was submitted to the Speaker by the Auditor-General in terms of Section 36(1) of the said Act.

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

(3) The Speaker presented the Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the year 2023.

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

(4) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the—

- (i) Supplementary Estimate Nos. 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of 2024;
- (ii) Notification made by the then Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 as amended relating to Jay Jay Textiles Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2399/16 of 26th August 2024;
- (iii) Mid-Year Fiscal Position Report of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism for the year 2024; and
- (iv) Pre-Election Budgetary Position Report for the year 2024.

and moved that the Supplementary Estimates, the Notification and the Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) for the year 2023 and move that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the—

- (i) 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 National Police Commission in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament;
- (ii) 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 Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament;
- (iii) 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 Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament;
- (iv) 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 Judges of the Superior Courts in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and
- (v) 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 National Audit Office in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Report of the Election Commission on the Local Authorities Elections conducted on February 10, 2018 (Volume I and II) and move that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the—

- (i) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 22 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of Departments of the Faculty of Siddha Medicine of the Trincomalee Campus of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2336/47 of 14th June 2023; and

- (ii) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Information and Communication Technology of the Faculty of Technology of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2336/48 of 14th June 2023

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

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

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Committee of Selection (No. 1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 114 of the Parliament, the Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and twelve (12) Members which shall include the Leaders of political parties or their nominees to be duly nominated by Parliament to serve during the First Session of the Tenth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Committee of Selection (No. 2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the motion duly agreed to by Parliament this day, the under mentioned twelve (12) Members do serve in the Committee of Selection during the First Session of the Tenth Parliament:—

The Hon. Bimal Rathnayake,
The Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa,
The Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar,
The Hon. K.V. Samantha Viddyarthna,
The Hon. Anura Karunathilaka,
The Hon. (Mrs.) Saroja Savithri Paulraj,
The Hon. Eranga Gunasekara,
The Hon. Muneer Mulaffer,
The Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka,
The Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law,
The Hon. Ravi Karunanayake,
The Hon. Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam,

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Business of Parliament (No. 1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That the Standing Order 111 of the Parliament Shall be suspended until 31st January 2025.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Business of Parliament (No. 2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Standing Order 50(2) of the Parliament shall operate with substitution of the words “Ministerial Consultative Committee” for the words “Sectoral Oversight Committee” until 31st January 2025.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Business of Parliament (No. 3): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Ministerial Consultative Committees shall have the power to examine any Bill, except the Bills defined in Article 152 of the Constitution, Treaty, Reports including the Annual and Performance Reports relating to the institutions coming under its purview or any other matter referred to the Committee by Parliament or any Committee or a Minister relating to the subjects and functions within their jurisdiction and report such matters to Parliament until 31st January 2025.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Statement of the Government Policy: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Statement of the Government Policy made by the President to the Parliament on Thursday, the 21st of November 2024 in terms of Articles 32(4) and 33(a) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka be duly passed by this Parliament.

(At 11.47 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.11 p.m. Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi took the Chair.)

The Minister of Women and Child Affairs moved,— That Hon. Imran Maharoof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.55 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

(At 3.32 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,— That this debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, December 04, 2024.

12. Adjournment: And it being past 5.30 p.m., Parliament was at 5.47 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 04, 2024.