



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 3.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, February 09, 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. Jeevan Thondaman, Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure
Development

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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

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

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. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
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. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage, State Minister of Tourism

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. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion
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. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Supply
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils, Local Government and Environment
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
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. Jagath Priyankara
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilake
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularathne, 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 : (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Fourth Installment – Part XXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021; and
- (ii) Fourth Installment – Part XXII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022

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 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 Office of the Chief Government Whip of Parliament in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) 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 State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zone Development in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Milco (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau for the year 2021 and moved that the 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 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 Ministry of Industries in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Archaeology for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Energies (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing 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 State Ministry of Rural and Regional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and

- (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 Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development 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.

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. 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 9.30 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.

3. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 1 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into and to make suitable recommendations relating to the disasters caused by New Diamond and X-press Pearl Vessels in the Maritime Zone of Sri Lanka : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into and to make suitable recommendations relating to the disasters caused by New Diamond and X-press Pearl Vessels in the Maritime Zone of Sri Lanka, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 11 August 2023, be extended up to 20 May 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. Ministerial Consultative Committees (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Twenty Eight (28) Ministerial Consultative Committees be appointed to be designated as follows:—

1. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence
2. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies

3. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology
4. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment
5. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports, Shipping and Aviation
6. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Investment Promotion
7. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils & Local Government
8. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries
9. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education
10. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways
11. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media
12. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health
13. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development
14. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Plantation Industries
15. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation
16. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms
17. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism and Lands
18. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries
19. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing
20. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs
21. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
22. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy
23. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment
24. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs
25. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation
26. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour and Foreign Employment
27. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security
28. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Each Ministerial Consultative Committee shall consist of the Cabinet Minister in charge of the relevant subject as Chair, State Minister, Deputy Minister and five (5) other Members of Parliament to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to discuss and report upon such matters as are referred to the Committee in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 112 of the Parliament;

The quorum of each Ministerial Consultative Committee shall be three (3) Members.
Question put, and agreed to.

6. Ministerial Consultative Committees (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 112(1) of Parliament, as per the decision taken on the 08th of February, 2024 by the Committee of Selection, a Ministerial Consultative Committee be appointed to be designated as Ministerial Consultative Committee on State Plantation Enterprises Reforms.

Above Ministerial Consultative Committee shall consists of the Non-Cabinet Minister in charge of the relevant subject as the Chair, State Minister, Deputy Minister and five (5) other members of Parliament to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to discuss and report upon such matters as are referred to it.

The quorum of above Ministerial Consultative Committee shall be three (3) Members.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Legislative Standing Committee: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 113 of the Parliament, the Legislative Standing Committee shall consist of the Deputy Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees and fifteen (15) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Committee on Parliamentary Business: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 115 of the Parliament, the Committee on Parliamentary Business shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip and twenty six (26) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Committee on Standing Orders: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 116 of the Parliament, the Committee on Standing Orders shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees and nine (9) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. House Committee: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 117 of the Parliament, the House Committee shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and fourteen (14) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Committee on Ethics and Privileges: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament, the Committee on Ethics and Privileges shall consist of twenty (20) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Committee on Public Accounts: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 119 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Accounts shall consist of thirty one (31) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Committee on Public Enterprises: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 120 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Enterprises shall consist of thirty one (31) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Committee on Public Finance: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 121 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Finance shall consist of twenty eight (28) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Committee on Banking and Financial Services: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 122 of the Parliament, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services shall consist of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Committee on Economic Stabilization: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 123 of the Parliament, the Committee on Economic Stabilization shall consist of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

17. Committee on Ways and Means: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 124 of the Parliament, the Committee on Ways and Means shall consist of seventeen (17) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

18. Committee on Public Petitions: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 125 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Petitions shall consist of twenty three (23) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

With the leave of the House, the following announcements were made by the Speaker:—

I

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Tourism and Lands, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 112(1) of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024:—

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka”

II

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Highways, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 112(1) of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024:—

Hon. Dilum Amunugama
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara”

III

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Finance, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 121 of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on this day:—

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan

Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law”

IV

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Ways and Means, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 124 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 09 February 2024:—

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda”

V

“I wish to inform that, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 115 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament this day, the following Members have been nominated with the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip and the Chief Opposition Whip, by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Parliamentary Business :—

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC.
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran”

19. Backbencher Committee: The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 129 of the Parliament, the Backbencher Committee shall consist of the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip, eight (8) Backbenchers from the Government and eight (8) Backbenchers from the Opposition to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

20. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara seconded by Hon. Akila Ellawala moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Mohan Ellawala Social Development Foundation.”

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 Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment for report.

21. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2369/58 of 03rd February 2024 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979, which was presented on 08.02.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

22. Adjournment (Policy Statement made by the Hon. President at the Inauguration of Fifth Session of Ninth Parliament) : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (08th February 2024).

Question again proposed, and debated.

Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media moved,— That Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.56 a.m. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Industries and Minister of Health moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.23 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.27 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri seconded by Hon. Nimal Piyathissa moved,— That Hon. Mohomad Muzammil do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.49 p.m. Hon. Mohomad Muzammil took the Chair.)

State Minister of Power and Energy moved,— That Hon. Samanpriya Herath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.06 p.m. Hon. Samanpriya Herath took the Chair.)

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

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.