



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 58.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Tuesday, March 09, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

44/2020

Hon. Heshu Withanage,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether there is an institution named Hadabima Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture;
 - (ii) if so, the main functions of the said institution;
 - (iii) the name and address of the building in which the Head Office of the said institution is located;
 - (iv) the annual and monthly rent paid for this building; and
 - (v) the arrangement that the Ministry has to establish the said institution in the same building in which the Ministry of Agriculture has been established?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

144/2020

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— To ask the Minister of Power,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether there is a forecast on the electricity demand of Sri Lanka for the next 5 years;
 - (ii) if so, whether information about the electricity demand of Sri Lanka for the next 5 years will be submitted; and
 - (iii) the details of the generation plan lined up to be implemented within the aforesaid period?
- (b) If not, why?

(2)

3.

175/2020

Hon. S. M. Marikkar,— To ask the Minister of Trade,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that a sum of Rs. 95 Crores deposited by 115,000 depositors in 24 Rural Banks governed by the Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society of Hewagam Korala East in Awissawella, have not been refunded to them since 2015?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the steps that have been taken to refund those deposits to the relevant depositors; and
 - (ii) the time needed to refund those deposits to the relevant depositors?
- (c) If not, why?

4.

237/2020

Hon. Mohomad Muzammil,— To ask the Minister of Trade,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House separately, pertaining to each of the years during the period from 2015 to 2019 of—
 - (i) the quantity of pepper imported into Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) the money that has been incurred on that;
 - (iii) the countries from which those pepper were imported; and
 - (iv) the companies which imported those pepper?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of the total expenditure of importing pepper into Sri Lanka during the period concerned?
- (c) If not, why?

5.

269/2020

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— To ask the Minister of Education,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) in which Budget provisions had been allocated for the Programme to Give Tablet Computers (Tabs) to Students who Follow the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) at Government Schools in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) the amount allocated for that Programme;
 - (iii) whether tenders had been called for implementing that Programme;
 - (iv) if so, what institutions had submitted tenders;
 - (v) the name of the institution that was selected from among the institutions referred to above for implementing the Programme;

(3)

- (vi) the specifications or criteria that were put forth in calling tenders;
- (vii) whether the tabs concerned have been purchased by now; and
- (viii) the expected date by which tabs will have been distributed among all the students who follow the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) at Government Schools in Sri Lanka and all the teachers who teach at Advanced Level classes at Government schools?

(b) If not, why?

6.

534/2020

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— To ask the Minister of Trade,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) the number of outlets of the Lanka Sathosa Limited in the Anuradhapura district; and
- (ii) the addresses of the locations of those outlets?

(b) Will he also inform this House of the measures to be taken by the Ministry to further expand the Lanka Sathosa Limited outlets network in Anuradhapura district?

(c) If not, why?

7.

585/2020

Hon. Velu Kumar,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture,—(1)

(a) Is he aware that—

- (i) a large number of tea estates owned by the Janatha Estate Development Board are situated within the Central Province;
- (ii) they have been incurring losses over a long period of time; and
- (iii) workers who had retired after serving in those estates have not been provided the gratuity and the benefits of the Employees' Provident Fund and the Employees' Trust Fund?

(b) Will he inform this House of—

- (i) the number of tea estates owned by the Janatha Estate Development Board situated within the Central Province; and
- (ii) the names of those estates and the districts they are situated in?

(c) Will he state—

- (i) the number of tea factories situated in the estates mentioned in (b) (i) above;
- (ii) the number of tea factories operational at present out of the said number;

(4)

- (iii) the number of tea factories leased to external parties out of the aforesaid factories and the names of those factories;
 - (iv) the number of tea factories closed down by now out of the aforesaid factories; and
 - (v) whether steps will be taken to reopen those factories?
- (d) If not, why?

8.

658/2020

Hon. Shantha Bandara,— To ask the Minister of Transport,—(1)

- (a) Will he admit that the railway stations in Sri Lanka should be developed systematically?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the amount allocated for the development of the Alawwa railway station; and
 - (ii) the institution which carries out development activities thereof?
- (c) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether he is aware that development activities of the Alawwa railway station have been delayed for years; and
 - (ii) if so, whether action will be taken to expedite the said development activities?
- (d) If not, why?

9.

666/2020

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that it was an ancient building that had situated in the heart of Kurunegala town that was destroyed by the Mayor of Kurunegala in an arbitrary manner?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether excavation in the site where that building was located has been commenced by the Department of Archaeology by now;
 - (ii) the period to which the destroyed building belonged;
 - (iii) the historic value of that building;
 - (iv) whether action will be taken to rehabilitate and conserve the said building;
 - (v) the cost of rehabilitating that building; and
 - (vi) the fund out of which the said amount is expected to be spent?
- (c) If not, why?

(5)

10.

856/2020

Hon. Nalin Fernando,— To ask the Minister of Trade,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the number of outlets opened by Lanka Sathosa Limited;
 - (ii) separately, the number of outlets that incur profits and losses annually;
 - (iii) the measures taken to convert the outlets that incur losses profitable;
 - (iv) whether measures will be taken to close down the outlets that incur losses;
 - (v) if so, the reason is; and
 - (vi) the procedure followed by Lanka Sathosa Limited when opening new outlets?
- (b) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Motions

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Sittings of the Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06th October 2020, the hours of Sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 3.30 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*1.

Regulations under the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act,—Adjourned Debate on Question (23rd February, 2021) Motion made and question proposed,— “Regulations made by the Minister of Industries and Supply Chain Management under Section 53 read with Section 15 of the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act, No. 50 of 1993, relating to Gem and Jewellery License Fee and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2165/2 of 02nd March 2020, which were presented on 09.02.2021, be approved”

*2.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing,— Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2202/7 of 17th November 2020, which were presented on 23.02.2021, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*3.

The Minister of Trade,— Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 1),— That the Order made by the Minister of Trade under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/14 of 28th October 2020, which was presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*4.

The Minister of Trade,— Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 2),— That the Order made by the Minister of Trade under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, relating to CESS Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/21 of 29th October 2020, which was presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

5.

P.72/2021

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi

Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

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

Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage,— Select Committee of Parliament to look into and report to Parliament its recommendations to ensure gender equity and equality with special emphasis on looking into gender based discriminations and violations of women's rights in Sri Lanka,— Whereas Article 12 of the Fundamental Rights Chapter of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka recognizes that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law;

(7)

And whereas, Article 12(4) provides for affirmative legislative or executive action for the advancement of women's rights;

And whereas, the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has ratified several international legal instruments that promote gender equality *inter alia* Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

And whereas, ensuring the gender equity and equality and empowering all women and girls have become important in the context of sustainable development goals adopted, by the United Nations for which Sri Lanka is a signatory; and

And whereas, the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in Parliament Chaired by the Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle, has resolved the necessity of setting up a mechanism to advocate and mainstream gender equity and equality through their representation, lawmaking, budgeting and oversight functions; and

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to look into and make recommendations in respect of the following in order to address gender based discrimination ensuring that gender equity and equality is promoted and respected, and all women and girls are empowered in Sri Lanka:—

- (a) hearing grievances of women on all sorts of gender based discriminations including employment, promotional opportunities and harassments in work place;
- (b) reviewing and advocating for the allocation of adequate domestic resources in all sectors and at all levels, and access to improve gender equity and equality in Sri Lanka;
- (c) scrutinizing and reviewing relevant laws, ensuring gender mainstreaming to prevent discrimination and negative impact on the lives of women and girls;
- (d) lobbying with relevant line Ministries and authorities to ensure gender responsive planning and budgeting;
- (e) undertaking awareness campaigns and encouraging information dissemination on matters related to achieving equality among men and women;
- (f) lobbying and advocating for more women representation in decision-making bodies on national, provincial and local level, in public, civil society and in private sectors;
- (g) reviewing measures for integration of gender equality principles at National, Provincial and Local levels;
- (h) encouraging public-private partnerships to improve gender equity and equality in Sri Lanka;
- (i) sharing expertise and experiences among countries at regional and international levels and reviewing lessons learnt from other Parliaments; and
- (j) consideration of all matters which are connected with or incidental to the above matters.

(8)

2. (a) That the Committee and its Chair shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
(b) That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 101 of the Parliament, the Committee shall consist of not more than twenty five (25) Members comprising all members of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in Parliament and other Male Members of Parliament representing all political parties.
3. That the Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to produce and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
 - (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
 - (d) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.
4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of one year from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.
5. The report of the Committee, once tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the Ministers in charge of relevant subject who shall submit their observations and steps taken therein contained to the House within a period of eight (08) weeks .

*6.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing,— Resolution under the Customs Ordinance,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 11.02.2021, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2202/5 of 17th November 2020)

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*7.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 1),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2209/18 of 05th January 2021, which were presented on 09.02.2021, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*8.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 2),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by the Acts, Nos. 48 of 1985 and 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2198/2 of 19th October 2020, which were presented on 12.02.2021, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*9.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 3),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by the Acts, Nos. 48 of 1985 and 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/20 of 29th October 2020, which were presented on 12.02.2021, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*10.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing,— Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 1),— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to Shangri-la Hotels Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/18 of 18th December 2020, which was presented on 23.02.2021, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*11.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing,— Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 2),— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to Sinolanka Hotels & Spa (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2206/19 of 18th December 2020, which was presented on 23.02.2021, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*12.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing,— Revision of Salary and Allowances of the Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption,— Whereas provisions have been made under Section 16(1) of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Act, No. 19 of 1994, to appoint a Director-General to the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for assisting the functions carrying out by the Commission and to pay a salary as determined by the Parliament to the person who holds that post;

And whereas, the salary and allowances of the post previously held by Mrs. A. A. P. Dilrukshi Dias Wickramasinghe, President's Counsel who was appointed to the post of Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption in the year 2015 and Mr. Sarath Jayamanna, President's Counsel who was appointed to the same post in the year 2016, are higher than the salaries and allowances received after their appointment as Director-General, action has been taken to revise the salaries and allowances to be paid to those officers as per the Cabinet Decision No. අමස/16/0947/702/040 dated 14.06.2016;

And whereas, as per the Cabinet Decision No. අමස/20/0443/201/012 and dated 19.02.2020 with regard to the Cabinet Memorandum dated 18.02.2020 submitted by the President to the Cabinet of Ministers, Mr. W. K. Damith Wijeratne who served as a High Court Judge, has been appointed to the post of Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption with effect from 21.01.2020;

And whereas, the salary payable to Mr. W. K. Damith Wijeratne after his appointment to the present post is being quite lower than the salary and allowances of the previous post; and

And whereas he has been appointed to the post of Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption, while considering his educational background and professionalism, following the requirement of the government, approval has been granted by the Cabinet decision dated 19.02.2020 to pay him the salary and allowances relating to his previous post as High Court Judge, being personal to him, from 30.01.2020, according to the prior precedents:—

- (a) to pay the monthly salary and all allowances entitled to the post of High Court Judge in the same manner, from 30.01.2020; and
- (b) not to pay relevant allowances, if he uses the official residence and official vehicle in respect of the current post.

Accordingly, that this Parliament resolves that the aforesaid monthly salary and allowances be paid to Mr. W. K. Damith Wijeratne, Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption, and shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund, in terms of Section 16(2) of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Act, No. 19 of 1994.