



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 27.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

1/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(3)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) the Ministry to which the Central Bank of Sri Lanka had been attached at the time of Central Bank Bond Scam during the previous “Good Governance Government”;
- (ii) separately, the names of the Minister in Charge of the above Ministry and the Secretary to the Ministry at that time; and
- (iii) the course of action that has been taken regarding the said bond scam so far?

(b) If not, why?

2.

386/2023

Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation,—(1)

(a) Will she inform this House—

- (i) whether she is aware of foreigners involved in illegally transporting gene particles of plants and animals that are rare, endangered and endemic to Sri Lanka;
- (ii) whether they, after being arrested, were able to leave Sri Lanka easily after paying the prescribed fine;
- (iii) whether there have been instances where they have repeatedly returned to Sri Lanka and engaged in the activity; and
- (iv) whether measures have been taken to identify such organized persons engaged in that activity?

(2)

- (b) Will she also inform this House—
 - (i) whether there is a sufficient number of wildlife officers to curb such activities;
 - (ii) if not, whether there is a mechanism to increase the number of officers;
 - (iii) whether there is a program to monitor the activities of foreigners visiting forests in Sri Lanka; and
 - (iv) if so, what that program is?
- (c) If not, why?

3.

416/2023

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(3)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the number of official police dogs in the possession of the Sri Lanka Police;
 - (ii) the breeds of the aforesaid police dogs; and
 - (iii) separately, the number of dogs as per each breed?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) the number of officers attached to the Police Kennels Division; and
 - (ii) separately for each year of the number of crimes that have been disclosed with the support of police dogs from the year 2017 to 2021?
- (c) If not, why?

4.

431/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) separately, the public institutions authorized to confer the honorary titles namely Professor, Doctor, Kala Nidi, Vidya Keerthi, Vidya Jothi, Desha Bandu, Desha Keerthi, Deshamanya, Vishwa Keerthi, Desha Shakthi;
 - (ii) separately, the educational and other qualifications considered when conferring the aforesaid honorary titles;
 - (iii) whether there are any other honorary titles conferred by the government in addition to the aforementioned titles; and
 - (iv) if so, the institutions that confer the aforesaid titles are?

(3)

(b) Will he also inform this House—

- (i) the private institutions/organizations in Sri Lanka that confer honorary titles;
- (ii) separately, the honorary titles conferred by aforementioned each institute/organization;
- (iii) whether a mechanism is available with the government to regulate aforesaid institutions/organizations;
- (iv) if so, the mechanism available is;
- (v) whether there is a mechanism to have a follow up regarding the persons who have been conferred with honorary titles; and
- (vi) if so, the aforementioned mechanism is?

(c) If not, why?

5.

690/2023

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam,— To ask the Minister of Health,—(1)

(a) Will he accept that—

- (i) the rural hospital situated in the Thuraiyelavanai area within the Kalavanchikudy Divisional Secretariat Division of the Batticaloa District has been upgraded as a divisional hospital;
- (ii) only one doctor has been appointed to it although two doctors should have been appointed for this hospital;
- (iii) the people of this area have been affected because the doctor has been assigned to cover duties at one other hospital as well; and
- (iv) although an ambulance was available at this hospital in the early period, no ambulance is available now?

(b) Will he inform the House of—

- (i) the reasons for not appointing a permanent doctor for this hospital;
- (ii) the reasons for not providing the hospital with an ambulance;
- (iii) the steps will be taken to appoint a permanent doctor for this hospital and to provide it with an ambulance?

(c) If not, why?

(4)

6.

814/2023

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi,— To ask the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House, separately—
 - (i) the number of eggs needed for Sri Lanka daily and annually;
 - (ii) the number of eggs produced in Sri Lanka daily, monthly and annually at present; and
 - (iii) if there is a shortage of eggs in Sri Lanka at present, that shortage on daily and monthly basis?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) the number of small, medium and large scale producers of eggs involved in the egg production industry;
 - (ii) the number of producers who produce eggs in each category of over 1000 eggs, over 10,000 eggs and over 100,000 eggs daily; and
 - (iii) the number of eggs produced daily under each category mentioned in (i) above, separately?
- (c) Will he further inform this House—
 - (i) the cost of importing an egg;
 - (ii) the price at which such an imported egg can be made available to customers; and
 - (iii) whether he admits that unscrupulous traders sell certain essential commodities including eggs at exorbitant prices?
- (d) If not, why?

7.

3169/2023

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara,— To ask the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the countries for which Sri Lankan workers are sought for foreign employment opportunities at present; and
 - (ii) separately, the number of employment opportunities informed to be provided to Sri Lanka by each of the aforesaid countries?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) of the countries for which language certificates are required for employment;
 - (ii) of the countries for which valid vocational training certificates are required for employment;
 - (iii) whether there are any countries for which language and vocational training certificates are not required; and
 - (iv) if so, the names of the aforesaid countries?

(5)

(c) Will he further inform this House—

- (i) of the steps hitherto taken to direct Sri Lankan workers for foreign employment; and
- (ii) of the measures that have been taken to enable the Sri Lankan workers to accomplish the qualifications required for foreign employment expeditiously?

(d) If not, why?

8.

3226/2023

Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) of the number of provincial schools in the Kalutara district which were converted into national schools after 2019 along with the name of each school, the education zone to which it belongs, the number of students and the date on which it was converted into a national school, separately;
- (ii) of the number of teachers who have applied for transfers after serving in the above mentioned schools for a long period of time since being a provincial school, the school in which each such teacher serves, period of service and the education zone, separately;
- (iii) whether arrangements would be made to implement those transfers;
- (iv) whether steps would be taken to fill the vacancies that occur as a result of such transfers;
- (v) whether a decision has been taken to the effect that those teachers are required to have three years of service since the school was converted in to a national school, in implementing those transfers; and
- (vi) if so, whether arrangements would be made to avoid the injustice being meted out to the teachers mentioned in (ii) above?

(b) If not, why?

9.

3227/2023

Hon. Niroshan Perera,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) whether a program has been implemented to send public servants for foreign employment opportunities;

(6)

- (ii) if so, separately, of the number of public servants who have applied for foreign employment, of the number of public servants who have been sent for foreign employment out of the aforesaid number of employees and of the number of public servants who are expected to be sent for foreign employment in future; and
- (iii) whether a training program is conducted to train the aforesaid public servants for the available foreign employment opportunities?

(b) If not, why?

10.

3237/2023

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara,— To ask the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) whether around 500 employees recruited on casual basis from the year 2021 are currently working in Lanka Sathosa Company Limited;
- (ii) whether the letters of appointment have been issued to them; and
- (iii) if not, the reasons thereof?

(b) Will he also inform this House—

- (i) the conditions of service applicable to the above employees;
- (ii) whether the labor laws in force in Sri Lanka have been violated in respect of those workers; and
- (iii) whether the salaries of these employees have been adjusted according to the circulars issued by the Government of Good Governance from 2016 to 2019 regarding government employees?

(c) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Motions

The Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament,—Vote of Appreciation— Secretary-General of Parliament,— That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to Mr. Waruna Bandara Dhammika Dasanayake on his retirement from the Office of the Secretary-General of Parliament, an expression of the deep sense of appreciation of this Parliament of the valuable services rendered by him as Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament and Secretary-General of Parliament over a period of 29 years, particularly in regard to his wide knowledge of Parliamentary Procedures and Practices; their sincere thanks for the assistance and advice given by him and their recognition of the unswerving dedication

(7)

with which he has discharged his responsibilities and the noteworthy contribution he has made as the Regional Secretary to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Asia Region from 2010 to 2012 and from 2022 to 2023 and also to various Associations of Parliamentarians both within, as well as, outside the Commonwealth.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*1.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Finance Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 regarding Embarkation Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2314/16 of 11th January 2023, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*2.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Finance Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 22 read with Section 26 of the Finance Act, No. 11 of 2004 regarding International Telecommunications Operators Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/80 of 01st January 2023, which were presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*3.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Finance Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 51 read with Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/69 of 31st December 2022, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*4.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Orders under the Finance Act,— That the Orders made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 51 read with Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2318/53 of 10th February 2023, which were presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*5.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Resolution under the Inland Revenue Act,— That this Parliament resolves under Section 75(1) of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 that the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Tax Evasion with respect to taxes on income entered into on 03rd February, 2023 between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Czech which was presented on 11.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*6.

Betting and Gaming Levy (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*7.

Central Bank of Sri Lanka Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*8.

Partition (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*9.

Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*10.

Anti-Corruption Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*11.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*12.

Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*13.

Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*14.

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation,— Regulations under the Civil Aviation Act (No.1),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Section 117(2)(q) read with Sections 6(3)(a) and 31 of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2303/18 of 26th October 2022, which were presented on 07.03.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*15.

The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation,— Regulations under the Civil Aviation Act (No.2),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation under Sections 117(2) and 117(3) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 14 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2304/46 of 02nd November 2022, which were presented on 07.03.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*16.

The Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation,— Regulations under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation under Section 71 of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469) read with Sections 2C, 5 and 5A of the aforesaid Ordinance and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/11 of 08th August 2022, which were presented on 23.02.2023, be approved.

*17.

The Minister of Public Security,— Regulations under the Immigrants and Emigrants Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Public Security under Section 52 read with Section 23 of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, (Chapter 351), which were presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*18.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.1),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies 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) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2324/45 of 24th March 2023, which were presented on 25.04.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*19.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No.2),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies 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) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2296/30 of 09th September 2022, which were presented on 06.10.2022, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*20.

The Minister of Agriculture,— Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka (2019),— That the Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 11.11.2022 under Section 23 of the Part II State Agricultural Corporation Act, No. 11 of 1972, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture on 07.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*21.

The Minister of Agriculture,— Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka (2020),— That the Annual Report of the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 11.11.2022 under Section 23 of the Part II State Agricultural Corporation Act, No. 11 of 1972, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture on 07.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*22.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year (2017),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 05.01.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*23.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year (2018),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 05.01.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*24.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2019),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*25.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2020),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*26.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2021),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

27.

Lions Clubs International District 306A - National Development Foundation Trust (Incorporation) (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

28.

Declaration of Assets and Liabilities (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

29.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

30.

White Rose Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

31.

Roshan Ranasinghe Janasahana Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

32.

Human Rights Organization (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

33.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

34.

Institute of Sport for Peace, Education, Empowerment and Development (SPEED) (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

35.

Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.

36.

Sri Balabhivurdhi Wardana Samithiya (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

37.

Samadhi Community Development Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

38.

Re-Awakening East Organization (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

39.

United Christian Fellowship of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

40.

Samadhi Health Service, Environment, Agricultural, Cultural and Sport Centre (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

41.

South Lanka Academy for Tertiary Education and Leadership (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

42.

Sahana Community Development Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

43.

Samadhi Meditation and Yoga Centre (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

44.

Ruhunu Awakening Organization (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

45.

“Matara Season” Organization (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

46.

Sri Lanka Insurance Institute (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

47.

Marriages (General) (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

48.

Muslim Marriage and Divorce (Repeal) Bill — Second Reading.

49.
Dassana Bauddha Sanvidhanaya (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
50.
Plastics and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
51.
Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
52.
Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.
53.
Community Association of Professionals (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
54.
Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
55.
Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
56.
Balapitiya Sri Rahularama Purana Viharastha Samanera Akalpa Sangwardena
Bikshu Vidyalaya (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

** Indicates Government Business.*

QUESTIONS NOT FOR ORAL ANSWERS

- 1.
- 3266/2023
- Hon. M. S. Thowfeek,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,—(1)
- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) of the local government authorities in the Southern Province which do not have simultaneous interpretation facilities for Sinhala, Tamil and English in the chambers where monthly council meetings are held;
 - (ii) whether local government areas in the Southern Province where significant numbers of Tamil-speaking people live have been identified;
 - (iii) if so, of the aforesaid local authorities; and
 - (iv) whether simultaneous interpretation facility is provided at the monthly council meetings of the Local Authorities in the Southern Province in which both Sinhala and Tamil languages are considered as the administrative languages?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

3267/2023

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) whether he is aware that the name of “Asadpura” village situated in Dikwella Pradeshiya Sabha area and the name boards which contained the name "Yonakapura" and were erected on either side of the Dikwella-Beliatta Main Road have been removed and name boards containing other names have been erected in violation of the provisions of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987 and the Naming of Streets and the Control of the Erection of Monuments Law No. 4 of 1975;
- (ii) if so, of the action that will be taken against the Chairman and the Secretary of the aforesaid Pradeshiya Sabha in that regard;
- (iii) whether disciplinary action and legal action will be taken against the Chairman and the Secretary of the Dikwella Pradeshiya Sabha for not taking any action in response to the letter No. 4/2/4 dated 08.02.2022, which was sent to them by the Commissioner of Local Government of the Southern Province in connection with this matter; and
- (iv) if so, of the dates on which such action will be taken?

(b) If not, why?

3.

3268/2023

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek,— To ask the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) of the reasons for not maintaining a database regarding movable and immovable property owned by mosques as well as charities including Taqiyya, Zaviya and Dargah by the Waqf Board of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs;
- (ii) whether he is aware that certain corruption and malpractices such as, using property owned by the aforesaid institutions for personal purposes and selling of aforesaid property at higher prices without the consent of the Waqf Board, are taking place due to not maintaining a database; and
- (iii) whether expeditious measures will be taken to create a database regarding the aforesaid property as a preliminary measure to prevent corruption and malpractices?

(b) If not, why?
