



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 34.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Tuesday, July 09, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

1909/2024

Hon. Tissa Attanayake, — To ask the Minister of Transport and Highways,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House of the—

- (i) reasons for the removal of Mount Lavinia main bus station where operations were carried out by the Ratmalana Depot;
- (ii) name of the original owner and the plan number of the land, acquired for establishing the aforesaid main bus station;
- (iii) extent of the aforesaid land;
- (iv) extent of the land used for establishing the aforesaid main bus station;
- (v) year in which the land was acquired for establishing the main bus station; and
- (vi) institution that owns the aforesaid land, at present?

(b) If not, why?

2.

1913/2024

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Health,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) of the number of pharmacies owned by the State Pharmaceutical Corporation in the Colombo District;
- (ii) the address of each of the said pharmacy, separately; and
- (iii) the actions that will be taken to expand the network of State Pharmaceutical Corporation pharmacies in the Colombo District?

(b) If not, why?

(2)

3.

1917/2024

Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe,— To ask the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment,— (2)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the—
 - (i) number of complaints received by the Department of Labour regarding labour disputes from the year 2020 to date;
 - (ii) number of settled and unsettled complaints separately; and
 - (iii) the number of persons who have received compensation through the Office of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation?
- (b) If not, why?

4.

1942/2024

Hon. Milan Jayathilake,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) separately, the volume of dairy products imported to Sri Lanka from year 2015 to date, according to each year;
 - (ii) of the annual volume of dairy production in Sri Lanka;
 - (iii) of the annual volume of dairy production in Sri Lanka, as a percentage of the volume of dairy production required by Sri Lanka annually; and
 - (iv) of the province that has recorded the highest consumption of dairy products?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of the —
 - (i) area that has recorded highest dairy production;
 - (ii) measures that will be taken to increase the dairy production of Sri Lanka?
- (c) If not, why?

5.

1969/2024

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the approved cadre of the Sri Lanka Customs Department;
 - (ii) separately of the number of employees of the Customs Department and of the number of employees of the combined service;
 - (iii) of the amount of monthly salary and allowances paid to the executive officers and junior officers of the Customs Department separately according to each position; and

(3)

- (iv) of the amount of monthly salary and allowances paid to the executive officers and junior officers of the combined service separately according to each position?

(b) If not, why?

6.

1995/2024

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara,—To ask the Minister of Irrigation,— (1)

(a) Will she inform this House—

- (i) whether he is aware that cultivated lands in many regions of the South-Eastern plains including Hambantota, Udawalawa region, Kirama Oya region and Malalaara region have been destroyed due to the severe drought;
- (ii) whether steps will be taken to implement the two solutions proposed by the ‘Surakimu Ruhuna’ organization, streamlining the old irrigation conservation system and diverting excess water from the wet zone to the above areas (Kalu Ganga Diversion Project);
- (iii) if not, what are the immediate measures expected to be implemented to avoid the water shortage in the above mentioned regions; and
- (iv) whether steps will be taken to start the Gin and Nilwala River projects that have been currently halted?

(b) If not, why?

7.

2008/2024

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) of the total area of lands where tea is cultivated in Sri Lanka;
- (ii) separately, of the amount of lands owned by state sector and private sector from the said area;
- (iii) of the annual amount of income earned from tea production;
- (iv) of the names of the areas where tea is cultivated using organic fertilizer; and
- (v) of the annual yield of tea obtained using organic fertilizer?

(b) Will he also inform this House of the—

- (i) names of the countries to which Sri Lanka exports tea;
- (ii) amount of tea exported annually;
- (iii) annual amount of foreign exchange earned from the said exportation; and
- (iv) ranking for Ceylon Tea in the world tea market?

(c) If not, why?

(4)

8.

2024/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) whether he is aware that there are a number of fake media operating in Sri Lanka, which publish news that may create chaos in the country;
 - (ii) if so, of the names of the aforesaid media;
 - (iii) whether he will take action to ban unregistered fake websites; and
 - (iv) if so, of the said action?
- (b) If not, why?

9.

2042/2024

Hon. Lalith Ellawala,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— (2)

- (a) Will he admit that—
 - (i) it takes over ten months for the payment of monthly pension to public servants to commence after retirement from public service;
 - (ii) there are occasions of certain public servants passing away before receiving the first pension owing to the said delay; and
 - (iii) the said delay is a severe injustice done to the public servants?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the reasons for the said delay;
 - (ii) of the steps taken by now to avoid the said delay;
 - (iii) whether a proper programme will be implemented to avoid the said delay; and
 - (iv) if so, the date on which such programme will be implemented?
- (c) If not, why?

10.

2055/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— To ask the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,— (2)

- (a) Will he admit that—
 - (i) Kandy city has been declared as a world heritage site by the UNESCO organization; and
 - (ii) numerous historically important places for Sri Lanka have been located in the aforementioned city?

(5)

- (b) Will he inform this House of —
 - (i) the sacred places and buildings situated in Kandy city that have been recognized as the world heritages;
 - (ii) whether financial aids will be granted by the UNESO to protect the aforesaid places;
 - (iii) if so, the total amount of financial aids granted annually;
 - (iv) the which private buildings situated in Kandy city that have been recognized as the world heritages;
 - (v) whether any financial aid will be granted for the owners of the said buildings; and
 - (vi) if so, the amount of the financial aid mentioned above?
- (c) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether places mentioned in above (b)(i) will remain the same;
 - (ii) whether approval has been granted for any renovation made in them; and
 - (iii) of the programmes that have been implemented to keep/continue the Kandy city as a world heritage site?
- (d) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Motions

1.

The Leader of the House of Parliament, — Sectoral Oversight Committees, — That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 111 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 21st November 2022, Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health shall consist of twenty two (22) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve, as per the decision taken on 03rd July 2024, by the Committee of Selection.

2.

The Leader of the House of Parliament, — Ministerial Consultative Committees, — That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 112 of the Parliament and the resolution adopted by Parliament on 09th February 2024, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health shall consist of twenty (20) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve, as per the decision taken on 03rd July 2024, by the Committee of Selection.

3.

Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law,— Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1),— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Isiwara Development, Social Services and Charity Foundation.”

4.

Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law,— Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2),— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Association of Human Resources Professionals.”

5.

Hon. Samanpriya Herath,— Leave to introduce Bill (No. 3),— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Mahawilachchiya Education Centre for Children.”

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*1.

Sri Lanka Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*2.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Annual Report of the GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd (2021),— That the Annual Report of the GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 09.01.2024 under Section 154(6) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, be approved.

(Considered by the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development on 08.02.2024/09.02.2024 and presented its report to Parliament on 07.03.2024)

*3.

The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,— Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation (2021),— That the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 06.10.2023 under Section 12(5) of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation Act, No. 1 of 1978, be approved.

(Considered by the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen on 10.01.2024 and presented its report to Parliament on 23.01.2024)

*4.

The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media,— Annual Report of the National Transport Medical Institute (2022),— That the Annual Report of the National Transport Medical Institute 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 13.12.2023 under Section 14(2) (C) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy and Transport on 23.01.2024 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2024)

5.

Matara Season Organization (Incorporation) Bill — Consideration.

6.

Shaili Edutainment Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Consideration.

7.

Samadhi Meditation and Yoga Centre (Incorporation) Bill— Consideration.

8.

Institute of Drafting Technologists Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill— Second Reading.

*9.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No. 1),— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 25 read with Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Annual Excise License Fees, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2366/38 of 12th January 2024, which was presented on 18.06.2024, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 01/2024).

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*10.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No. 2),— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 25 read with Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise License Fees, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2369/32 of 01st February 2024, which was presented on 18.06.2024, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 03/2024).

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*11.

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. 2384/34 of 17th May 2024, which were presented on 18.06.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*12.

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. 2384/35 of 17th May 2024, which were presented on 18.06.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*13.

Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 3 (4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to “Dedicated Textile Manufacturing Zone” in Eravur, Batticaloa District and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2377/41 of 28th March 2024, which was presented on 14.05.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*14.

Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*15.

Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*16.

Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*17.

Gender Equality Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*18.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*19.

Public Financial Management Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*20.

Economic Transformation Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*21.

Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*22.

Immigration Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*23.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 3),— 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.)

*24.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 4),— 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.)

*25.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Notification under the Finance Act,— That the Notification 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. 2368/24 of 24th January 2024, which was presented on 02.04.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*26.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Resolution for the Implementation of External Debt Restructuring Agreements,— Whereas, in March 2022, Sri Lanka faced a severe debt sustainability crisis as Foreign Exchange Reserves experienced continuous depletion and consequently, on the advice of the Monetary Board of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka suspended public external debt repayments to prevent further deterioration of the economic situation;

And whereas, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) initiated negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to restructure the debt and find a solution to the crisis, following a transparent disclosure of the severe issue to the public and upon stakeholder consultation, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) appointed Lazard as Financial Advisors and Clifford Chance LLP as Legal Advisors to represent GOSL in negotiations with the IMF;

And whereas, the IMF conducted a comprehensive review of Sri Lanka's financial situation and issued a Debt Sustainability Assessment, delineating the challenges and potential solutions and in accordance with the IMF's roadmap, a rigorous debt restructuring procedure was subsequently initiated by Sri Lanka;

And whereas, despite the suspension of foreign debt repayments, which included bilateral creditor repayments and payments to Sovereign Bondholders, Sri Lanka remained committed to servicing multilateral creditor payments;

And whereas, pursuant to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 28th June 2023, Parliament resolved that the domestic public debt of Sri Lanka be optimized to ensure public debt sustainability;

And whereas, the domestic debt restructuring process was successfully conducted and concluded by Sri Lanka in accordance with the IMF's debt sustainability assessment and consequently, the remaining two components of the foreign loans consist of payments to bilateral creditors and payments to Sovereign Bondholders;

And whereas, in order to restructure the bilateral loans in accordance with the IMF's debt sustainability parameters, an Official Creditor Committee (OCC) was established under the leadership of France, Japan, and India and concurrently, Sri Lanka engaged in discussions with the Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM Bank) within the same parameters as the OCC;

And whereas, on June 26, 2024, the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented the memorandum to the Cabinet of Ministers outlining the successful conclusion of debt restructuring negotiations with the Official Creditor Committee (OCC) and the Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM Bank), paving the way for potential future positive credit reviews;

And whereas, Sri Lanka is expected to achieve improved credit ratings as a result of this strategic and measured approach, which will facilitate access to the international financial markets;

And whereas, on June 26, 2024, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Official Creditor Committee (OCC) reached the final agreement on debt restructuring agreement in Paris, and the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM Bank) reached the final agreement on debt restructuring agreement in Beijing, marking a significant breakthrough following a series of successful negotiations by the GOSL and these agreements pave the way for Sri Lanka to resume its bilateral economic relationships with creditor countries with renewed commitment;

And whereas, the Debt Restructuring Agreements are instrumental in regaining debt sustainability in alignment with the IMF Debt Sustainability Analysis and furthermore, they are poised to significantly transform Sri Lanka's economy, facilitating a swift economic recovery and fostering sustainable growth; and

Therefore, this Parliament resolves that as per the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated June 26, 2024 to grant all requisite approvals to the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to implement the following agreements:—

- (i) The Final Agreement reached between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Official Creditor Committee (OCC) on the Debt Restructuring of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 26th June 2024; and
- (ii) The Final Amendment Agreement to Loan Agreements reached between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM Bank) on 26th June 2024.

*27.

The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,— Regulations under the Antiquities Ordinance,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs on 25th May 2023 under Section 47(1) read with Section 46 of the Antiquities Ordinance No. 9 of 1940 (Chapter 188) and which were presented on 05.07.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*28.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,— Rules under the Incorporated Council of Legal Education Ordinance,— That the Rules made by the incorporated Council of Legal Education with the concurrence of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 7 of the Incorporated Council of Legal Education Ordinance (Chapter 276) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2332/02 of 15th May 2023, which were presented on 18.07.2023, be approved.

*29.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,— Regulations under the Judicature Act (No. 1),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2360/22 of 27th November 2023, which were presented on 24.04.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*30.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,— Regulations under the Judicature Act (No. 2),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2371/13 of 13th February 2024, which were presented on 24.04.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

31.

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

32.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

33.

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

34.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

35.

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

36.

Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.

37.

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

38.

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

39.

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

40.

Plastics and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

41.

Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

42.

Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.

43.

Community Association of Professionals (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

44.

Arundika Fernando Relief Services and Godfrey Fernando Memorial Foundation (Incorporation) Bill— Second Reading.

45.

Hector Appuhamy Helping Hand Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

46.

Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

47.

Vanni Mann Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

* *Indicates Government Business.*
