



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 35.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

4/2024

Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Transport and Highways,— (2)

- (a) Is he aware that—
 - (i) although the three-wheeler services fulfil the transportation needs of the people, no formal system in place to regulate the same; and
 - (ii) the passengers are inconvenienced by the irregular tolling practices of the three-wheeler drivers?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of registered three-wheelers in Kandy district out of the total number in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) whether there is a formal system to regulate the three-wheeler service;
 - (iii) whether it has been proposed to introduce an identity card and a uniform for the identification of the three-wheeler drivers and to install a meter on the three-wheelers; and
 - (iv) if so, of the date on which the above proposals will be implemented?
- (c) If not, why?

2.

43/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, — To ask the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation,—(2)

- (a) Is she aware that—
 - (i) the former president Maithripala Sirisena signed the gazette notification in 2019 for the inclusion of 13 forest reserves located around the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, which is a World Heritage, into the Sinharaja Forest and for increasing the area of the Sinharaja Forest Reserve up to 30,000 hectares; and
 - (ii) however, the said gazette notification has not been published so far?

(2)

- (b) Will she inform this House —
- (i) separately of the acreage of each of the aforesaid forest reserves that had been proposed to be included into the Sinharaja World Heritage Forest Reserve as per the above gazette notification;
 - (ii) of the reasons behind the delay in publishing the aforesaid gazette notification;
 - (iii) whether steps will be taken to publish the aforesaid gazette notification; and
 - (iv) if so, the date on which the said gazette notification will be published?
- (c) If not, why?

3.

2077/2024

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) of the number of active accounts that have existed in the Employees' Provident Fund from 2015 to date and the interest rate paid for those accounts separately according to each year;
 - (ii) of the criteria considered in determining the aforesaid interest rates;
 - (iii) whether he admits that the above interest rates are not sufficient given the current inflation; and
 - (iv) if so, the action will be taken in that regard?
- (b) If not, why ?

4.

2085/2024

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha,— To ask the Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) of the number of villages that lack clean drinking water facilities and their names;
 - (ii) separately, of the number of families who do not access to clean drinking water facilities in each divisional secretariat division;
 - (iii) separately, of the number of ongoing projects to provide clean drinking water facilities, the name of each project and the number of families that will be benefitted; and
 - (iv) of the measures that will be taken to provide clean drinking water facilities for the people who do not have access to them;
- in the North Western Province?
- (b) If not, why?

(3)

5.

2143/2024

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila ,—To ask the Minister of Education,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether the Final Certificate Examination of Dhamma schools and Dharmacharya Examination have been ranked under the Qualification Framework of Sri Lanka; and
 - (ii) if so, of the said level of grading?
- (d) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Presentation of Bills

1.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,— Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment),— Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

Notice of Motions

2.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Business of the Parliament,— That the proceedings on Item No. 6 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.

3.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate Causes for Financial Bankruptcy declared by the Government and to Report to Parliament and Submit its Proposals and Recommendations in this regard,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to Investigate Causes for Financial Bankruptcy declared by the Government and to Report to Parliament and Submit its Proposals and Recommendations in this regard, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 22 March 2024 be extended up to 18 October 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament, as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

(4)

4.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— 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,— 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 14 May 2024, be extended up to 20 October 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament, as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

5.

Hon. Samanpriya Herath,— Leave to introduce Bill,— 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.

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.)

*2.

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.)

*3.

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.)

*4.

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.)

*5.

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.)

*6.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act,— That this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2391/27 of 04th July 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 09.07.2024, be approved.

*7.

Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*8.

Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*9.

Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*10.

Gender Equality Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*11.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*12.

Public Financial Management Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*13.

Economic Transformation Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*14.

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

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*15.

Immigration Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*16.

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.)

*17.

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.)

(7)

*18.

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.)

*19.

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;

(8)

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.

*20.

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.)

*21.

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.

*22.

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.)

*23.

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.)

24.

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

25.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

26.

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

27.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

28. Institute of Sport for Peace, Education, Empowerment and Development (SPEED) (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
29. Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.
30. Sri Lanka Insurance Institute (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
31. Marriages (General) (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
32. Muslim Marriage and Divorce (Repeal) Bill — Second Reading.
33. Plastics and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
34. Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
35. Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.
36. Community Association of Professionals (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
37. Arundika Fernando Relief Services and Godfrey Fernando Memorial Foundation (Incorporation) Bill— Second Reading.
38. Hector Appuhamy Helping Hand Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
39. Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
40. Vanni Mann Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

* *Indicates Government Business.*
