



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 36.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

309/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— To ask the Prime Minister and the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— (3)

(a) Will he inform this House of,—

- (i) the number of official foreign trips undertaken by the Speaker of the Ninth Parliament on international relations and educational programmes for the wellbeing of the country from 20.08.2020 up to date;
- (ii) the names of the Members of Parliament and the officials who attended each such foreign tour, separately; and
- (iii) the benefits accrued to the country from the above foreign tours?

(b) If not, why?

2.

359/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House separately for each year, of the number of—

- (i) road accidents;
- (ii) fatal road accidents;
- (iii) persons that got killed, totally disabled, seriously injured and hospitalized with minor injuries due to road accidents;
- (iv) vehicles involved in accidents; and
- (v) vehicles destroyed beyond repair among the vehicles damaged in road accidents;

in Sri Lanka from 2021 to date?

(b) Will he also inform this House —

- (i) whether the annual additional expenditure incurred by the Government on account of road accidents has been calculated; and
- (ii) if so, separately of the amount of the annual additional expenditure incurred on the sectors of health, highways and transport?

(c) If not, why?

(2)

3.

369/2024

Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka,— To ask the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of —
 - (i) the number of Buddhist places of worship in Sri Lanka at present;
 - (ii) the number of temples, out of them;
 - (iii) the number of Buddhist monks registered in Sri Lanka; and
 - (iv) the number of temples that ended up in closure due to non-availability of Buddhist monks?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether a national programme known as 'Sasun Udawa' has been commenced in order to properly maintain and develop the temples in the rural areas, as articulated in the Vision of Prosperity election manifesto, by now;
 - (ii) if so, when; and
 - (iii) if not, the expected date of the commencement of that programme?
- (c) If not, why?

4.

374/2024

Hon. Niroshan Perera,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether a fingerprint system is available at Sri Lanka Customs to record the arrival and departure of the officers and employees;
 - (ii) separately, of the number of officers and employees those who do not use the fingerprint system to record the arrival and departure;
 - (iii) separately, of the number of officers and employees who have received overtime payments without keeping records of arrival and departure in the year 2022; and
 - (iv) of the total amount of overtime payments that have been made for the said officers and employees?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of the—
 - (i) measures that have been taken by Sri Lanka Customs to prevent fraudulent overtime payments;
 - (ii) number of frauds tracked with the progress of the steps taken; and
 - (iii) steps taken against the people who have engaged in the said fraudulent activities?
- (c) If not, why?

(3)

5.

381/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) value of the net assets of the Farmers Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme by the year 2022;
 - (ii) manner in which the funds are received into the scheme;
 - (iii) age limit at which its beneficiaries can claim for benefits; and
 - (iv) number of annual beneficiaries of the said scheme and the amount paid to them annually, separately?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of members who have met the eligibility requirements for receiving the benefits of the above scheme but are not currently receiving the benefits;
 - (ii) the reasons for not providing benefits to them; and
 - (iii) the amount payable to them?
- (c) Will he further inform this House —
 - (i) whether the above scheme is inoperative by now; and
 - (ii) of the steps that have been taken to maintain it further?
- (d) If not, why?

6.

467/2024

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma,— To ask the Minister of Environment,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the date on which the decision to ban the importation of Refuse Plastic to Sri Lanka, was taken;
 - (ii) the volume of Refuse Plastic imported from 2018 up to date, in relation to each year, separately;
 - (iii) the number of institutions to which permission has been granted by the Central Environment Authority to import Refuse Plastic;
 - (iv) their names;
 - (v) the reasons that led to permission being granted to a number of institutions by the Central Environment Authority to import Refuse Plastic despite the decision to ban the importation of Refuse Plastic; and
 - (vi) the measures that would be taken in this regard?
- (b) If not, why?

(4)

7.

512/2024

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

- (a) Is he aware that—
 - (i) a grave shortage of teachers exists in the Gamini Vidyalaya in the Bogas Handiya area in Padawiya, Anuradhapura; and
 - (ii) the students and their parents of the school staged a massive demonstration over this shortage of teachers?
- (b) If so, will he inform this House of the measures that would be taken to address this shortage of teachers?
- (c) If not, why?

8.

543/2024

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene,—To ask the Minister of Education,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of international schools registered in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) of the number of students studying at such schools and academic and non-academic employees serving in them, separately;
 - (iii) whether the Ministry of Education regulates the syllabuses and extra-curricular activities of such schools; and
 - (iv) whether the Ministry has issued guidelines pertaining to student activities and fitness activities at such schools?
- (b) If not, why?

9.

566/2024

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna,— To ask the Non Cabinet Minister of State Plantation Enterprises Reforms,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of—
 - (i) the plantation crops that have been cultivated by now on the lands owned by Janatha Estates Development Board; and
 - (ii) the products made out of those crops?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether a register is maintained about the trees yielding timber with commercial value that are found on the lands owned by the Board;
 - (ii) if so, what those tree species are;
 - (iii) whether those trees are sold to the private sector; and
 - (iv) if so, of the procedure followed in such selling?
- (c) If not, why?

(5)

10.

1242/2024

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,— (2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of Police Stations established in Sri Lanka at present;
 - (ii) the number of Police officers deployed at the above mentioned Police stations and for other duties, separately; and
 - (iii) if vacancies exist in the Sri Lanka Police service at present, the number of such vacancies in relation to each post, separately?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of Police officers deployed for the personal security of the Members of Parliament;
 - (ii) whether Police officers have been deployed for the security of other individuals or institutions other than Members of Parliament; and
 - (iii) if so, the number of such Police officers in relation to each individual/ institution?
- (c) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Motions

1.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Sittings of the Parliament,— 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 10.30 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.

2.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties in relation to preparation for the proposed 'Business Ready (B-READY) Index' in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to study the practical problems and difficulties in relation to preparation for the proposed 'Business Ready (B-READY) Index' in Sri Lanka and make its proposals and recommendations, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 20th June 2024, be extended up to 22nd August 2024 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

- *1.
Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *2.
Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *3.
Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *4.
Gender Equality Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *5.
Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *6.
Public Financial Management Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *7.
Economic Transformation Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *8.
Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements
Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *9.
Immigration Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *10.
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. 2384/35 of 17th May 2024, which were presented on 18.06.2024, be
approved.
(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. 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. 2324/45 of 24th March 2023, which were presented on 25.04.2023, 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. 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. 2296/30 of 09th September 2022, which were presented on 06.10.2022, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*13.

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.)

*14.

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;

(9)

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.

*15.

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.)

*16.

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.

*17.

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.)

*18.

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.)

19.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

20.

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

21.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

22.

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

23.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

24.

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

25.

Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.

26.

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

27.

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

28.

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

29.

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

30.

Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

31.

Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.

32.

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

33.

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

34.

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

35.

Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

36.

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

* *Indicates Government Business.*
