



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 37.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Friday, July 12, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

592/2024

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithrarachchi,— 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 number of Members of Parliament who received the Pension and are receiving the Pension and the pension of each such Member of Parliament, separately;
 - (ii) out of those Members of Parliament, the number of Members of Parliament who represented the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, and the Pension of each such Member of Parliament and the period of service, separately;
 - (iii) of the period of time a Member of Parliament should complete to be eligible for Pension entitlements;
 - (iv) of the Pension of a Member of Parliament who has completed a period of service of 5 years; and
 - (v) of the manner in which the Pension of a Member of Parliament varies according to his period of service?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

614/2024

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) of the number of microfinance institutions in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) of such institutions, the number which have got registered with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka;

(2)

- (iii) whether he is aware that there are microfinance institutions that are not duly registered;
 - (iv) if so, the number of such institutions, their names and addresses; and
 - (v) the number of loans provided by microfinance institutions registered and unregistered with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and their interest percentages, separately?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
- (i) whether the microfinance institutions have given a grace period for commencement of loan repayment;
 - (ii) if so, what the grace period is;
 - (iii) whether he is aware that employees of microfinance institutions inflict physical and psychological abuse on people who default on loans;
 - (iv) if so, what action has been taken against those institutions;
 - (v) whether he accepts the fact that microfinance institutions should be regulated; and
 - (vi) if so, of the regulatory program?
- (c) If not, why?

3.

638/2024

Hon. B. Y. G. Ratnasekara,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
- (i) total milk requirement of Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) quantity of milk, produced in Sri Lanka as opposed to the requirement; and
 - (iii) amount spent on importing milk powder in the year 2023?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
- (i) of the total egg production in Sri Lanka in the year 2023;
 - (ii) as to how the egg production has been fluctuated in year 2023 in comparison to year 2022;
 - (iii) of the current production cost of an egg; and
 - (iv) of the measures that have been taken to reduce the cost of production and the prices of eggs?
- (c) If not, why?

(3)

4.

1093/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of Multi Purpose Cooperative Societies in Kurunegala district;
 - (ii) number of employees serving in those Cooperative Societies;
 - (iii) services provided by those Cooperative Societies;
 - (iv) number of regional outlets controlled by the Societies; and
 - (v) measures that have been taken to develop the cooperative movement in Kurunegala district?
- (b) If not, why?

5.

1128/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of government-owned paddy warehouses in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) of the areas where they are established;
 - (iii) of the quantity of paddy stored in them at present;
 - (iv) whether it is planned to construct new paddy warehouses; and
 - (v) if so, in which areas?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether the government-owned paddy warehouses have been used for other purposes; and
 - (ii) if so, what those purposes are?
- (c) If not, why?

6.

1155/2024

Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Tourism and Lands,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether the landless, low income earners in Sri Lanka have been identified by now;
 - (ii) whether a transparent system has been developed for the allotment of land to them; and
 - (iii) of the date, if any, that the system will be implemented?
- (b) If not, why?

(4)

7.

1247/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of—
 - (i) the progress of the introduction of proposed unified labour law reforms;
 - (ii) if there is progress, separately, the date that the new legislation will be gazetted in this regard and the date it will be presented to the Parliament; and
 - (iii) if there is no progress, reason for the delay?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of—
 - (i) whether the provisions exist in the proposed labour law reforms to address less female labour force participation;
 - (ii) if so, the relevant provisions; and
 - (iii) if not, the reasons for exclusion?
- (c) Will he further inform this House of—
 - (i) the provisions with regard to flexible and part-time work in the proposed reforms;
 - (ii) whether the effects of prevailing informalization on female labour have been taken into account; and
 - (iii) if not, steps taken to formalize the issues on female labour?
- (d) If not, why?

8.

1253/2024

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana,— To ask the Minister of Environment,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of licenses that have been issued by the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau since 2015 to date;
 - (ii) of the procedure followed by the said Bureau in issuing licenses;
 - (iii) whether he is aware that it has been revealed in the Committee on Public Enterprises in Parliament that the independence of the licensing process is being influenced;
 - (iv) if so, of the measures that have been taken to ensure the independence of the licensing process; and
 - (v) of the measures that will be taken to restore the above institution out of the corrupt situation which is prevalent?
- (b) If not, why?

(5)

9.

1282/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether an assessment has been conducted regarding the annual crop damage due to wildlife activity;
 - (ii) if so, of the steps thereon; and
 - (iii) of the measures adopted as of now to minimize the damage?
- (b) If not, why?

10.

1287/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of—
 - (i) the date on which the ‘Shrama Wasana Fund’ was initiated;
 - (ii) its initial objectives;
 - (iii) the number of people who have benefitted from that Fund from 2015 to date;
 - (iv) the sources of this fund; and
 - (v) the steps that would be taken to strengthen the Fund further?
- (b) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Motions

1.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Business of the Parliament,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day’s sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 24(2) of the Parliament.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

1.

P.1/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Minimizing the damage caused to bio-diversity by invasive plants and animals,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should make interventions to identify and name the invasive plants and animals that can cause damage to bio-diversity in Sri Lanka and to prohibit breeding and importing of such plants and animals in order to protect the environment in Sri Lanka and that appropriate action should be taken promptly to formulate necessary laws in that regard.

2.

P.40/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— Preparation of a programme to strengthen the audit and legal sections of the Ministry of Sports,— That this parliament resolves that, whereas, many sports associations in Sri Lanka including cricket have become extremely corrupt at present, the government should develop a programme aimed at strengthening the audit and legal sections of the Ministry of Sports to effectively mitigate this situation.

3.

P.10/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— The need for preventing religious extremism,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should prepare an expeditious program to prevent the attempts made to surface and promote religious extremism and to rehabilitate those who have already become victims of it, since having extremist views in any field in any country can be immensely harmful, whereas there has been a serious discourse in society regarding religious extremism following the Easter Sunday attack taken place.

4.

P.18/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Filling all public sector job vacancies on the basis of Z-score obtained by students in the G.C.E (Advance Level) Examination,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should take necessary measures to take into account the Z-score obtained in the G.C.E (Advance Level) Examination by the students when filling vacancies at all government departments, corporations, authorities, boards and provincial councils affiliated institutions, whereas the policies adopted by the former and existing governments in recruitment to the public service on the basis of political allegiance or preferences have seriously damaged the independence of the public service, and due to the fact that it is necessary to make the highly politicized public service completely independent, as giving jobs only on the basis of educational qualification will ensure justice and fairness to the talented and qualified youth, and eradicate youth unrest, and as the vacancies arising in the district would be given to the residents of the respective district will assure the economic security of the employees and create the opportunity to get a highly efficient service to the public sector.

5.

P.37/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— Declaring the Day of the Martyrs of the Hill Country Trade Union,— That this Parliament resolves that the Hill Country Trade Union Martyrs Day be declared in order to commemorate the first worker and all the martyrs who laid down their lives in the pursuit of non-violent struggle for the rights and welfare of the plantation workers and that the day shall be set on the 10th of January as it aligns with the sacrifice of the first Hill Country martyr, “Mulloya Govinthan”, who had been shot dead by a white national, during the first trade union struggle for salary hikes of plantation workers in Sri Lanka unfolded from December 1939 to January 1940, and whereas through democratic means, the Hill Country plantation workers have fervently fought for and secured their rights and as a testament to their struggles, the Hill Country people of Indian origin have long demanded that these martyrs who selflessly laid down their lives in the pursuit of democracy be commemorated on a designated day, and the Hill Country plantation workers stand as a community in Sri Lanka’s history, having made significant contributions to its economic growth.

6.

P.45/2024

Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe,— Providing formal national career guidance to the Sri Lankan student community to help them succeed in their future,— That this parliament resolves that a permanent national course of action be established by the government to provide correct career guidance aimed at making the student community understand formally and informed of the degree courses conducted in the current system of universities in Sri Lanka, the technical and technological colleges and their courses, recognized private universities ,world -recognized foreign universities and methods of obtaining local and foreign scholarships whereas hundred thousands of students appear for G.C.E(O/L) and G.C.E(A/L) in Sri Lanka every year, whereas it has been observed that the majority of the above students and their parents do not have a proper understanding of how to mould the future of the students who pass and fail these exams, whereas it appears that the government institutions established to provide correct career guidance are not fulfilling their duties and responsibilities properly.

7.

P.2/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Formulating the research theses of the students of universities and other tertiary education institutions with a focus on the development work undertaken by the relevant ministries,— That this Parliament resolves that a formal procedure be formulated by the government to make use of the research theses written by the students of the universities and the other tertiary education institutions to achieve the long-term, medium-term and short-term objectives of the relevant ministries when the future development processes are undertaken as it is of utmost importance to draft the research theses of the students of universities and other tertiary education institutions functioning in Sri Lanka at present related to their courses of study, with a focus on the economic, social and cultural developments in Sri Lanka, and whereas an officer responsible for each ministry at ministry level is required to be appointed to coordinate between the thesis supervisor and the ministry concerned.

8.

P.3/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Taking the initiative to protect the Buddhist places of worship worldwide,— That this Parliament resolves that an appropriate programme be formulated by the government enabling Sri Lanka to initiate advocating the Buddhist leaders and organizations around the world with a view to establishing a strong organization to tighten the security of the Buddhist temples worshipped by the Buddhists living around the world to lobby on behalf of Buddhists at the international level.

9.

P.4/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Expanding the Maintenance Boards for Elders island wide,— That this Parliament resolves that the necessary steps be taken by the government enabling the expansion of Maintenance Boards for Elders functioning under the National Council and Secretariat for Elders of the Ministry of Health to the provincial, district and divisional secretariat levels with the objective of facilitating the elders, who spend the last stage of life, to lodge complaints regarding various injustices faced by them due to the discrimination caused by their family members and certain organizations.

10.

P.5/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Combining the knowledge on Sri Lankan food culture with the teaching process,— That this Parliament resolves that an appropriate programme be implemented by the government to make the food culture of Sri Lanka known among local and foreign people and elevate the Sri Lankan identity by endowing the future generations with the Sri Lanka food culture pedagogy through pedagogical methodologies as food art of Sri Lanka is comprised of a number aspects including the art of flavors and mixation, art of cooking food, art of coloring and the art of food carving.

11.

P.6/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Suppressing the drug rackets carried out through online marketing,— That this Parliament resolves that a proper programme be formulated and implemented by the government whereas substandard pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and beauty culture products are hugely sold online at present and this makes a huge threat to the safety of the lives of the people of our country.

12.

P.7/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Making the society aware of the value of school children,— That this Parliament resolves that a national level programme be formulated and implemented by the government in regard to the manner in which children should be protected in the face of social challenges for the future betterment of the society and the country, having explained the value of children in a simple manner through sociological and psychological methodologies to the persons such as parents, teachers, sports coaches, school van drivers that always associate with school children.

13.

P.8/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Strengthening the economy of elderly communities through a loan scheme,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should make a suitable arrangement to implement a loan scheme through the banking system for those who are above 60 years of age, whereas the contribution of the elderly community over 60 years can be obtained to enhance the development in the entire Sri Lankan economy by strengthening their livelihood, and whereas they are discriminated against in the society as that elderly community is not granted loan facilities through the banking system.

14.

P.9/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Launching a book on the history of Sri Lanka,— That this Parliament resolves that suitable steps be taken by the government to launch a book on the history of Sri Lanka on the sponsorship of the government under a proficient board of editors upon studying archeology, literature, folklore and Roman, Greek and Persian history from the human evolution.

15.

P.11/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Continuing the construction work of Ruwanpura Expressway,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take necessary measures to carry out the construction work of Ruwanpura Expressway continuously at least in phases since not only the people living in Ratnapura district but also in Badulla and Hambanthota districts will be benefitted from the construction of the Expressway as it would help gain immense benefits despite the economic difficulties the country is currently experiencing.

16.

P.12/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Extending the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take measures to extend the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura since it is considered as one of the railway lines that generate a higher income for the Sri Lanka Railways Department, whereas people living in a number of districts, including Ratnapura, Hambanthota and Badulla will be benefitted from extending the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura.

17.

P.13/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Uplifting the collapsed financial institutions,— That this Parliament resolves that a programme be formulated by the Government with immediate effect to uplift the financial institutions of the country, whereas several such institutions have collapsed throughout the past period and whereas the depositors of the said institutions encounter a number of common issues in spite of the fact that a significant impact is made by these financial institutions towards the economic development and on the financial market of a country.

18.

P.14/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Increase of the local canned fish production,— That this Parliament resolves that action be taken by the Government to initiate a programme with immediate effect to develop the local canned fish industry, whereas a substantial amount of money is annually spent on the importation of canned fish required by the country amidst Sri Lanka being a country surrounded by the sea.

19.

P.15/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Repairing the disposable vehicles in Local Authorities,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should prepare an accelerated programme to repair the disposable vehicles that are piled up in Local Authorities, which is a common scene, whereas a large amount of money can be saved by repairing those vehicles without purchasing new vehicles.

20.

P.16/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Ensuring welfare for migrant workers,— That this Parliament resolves that steps be taken expeditiously to launch a programme ensuring welfare for the families of migrant workers who contribute most of the foreign exchange to Sri Lanka.

21.

P.17/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Developing the bee honey industry,— That this Parliament resolves that an expedited programme should be implemented by the government to develop the local bee honey industry as bee honey is of very high medicinal value and in great demand in the local and international market.

22.

P.19/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Compilation of the Constitution of Sri Lanka in “Braille” and “Audio” mode,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary actions be taken by the Government to compile the Constitution of Sri Lanka in “Braille” and “Audio” mode for hearing and visually impaired community to gain knowledge and understanding of the fundamental law of the country, whereas the Constitution is the fundamental law and the basic model of the state in any country, whereas almost two million citizens out of nearly twenty two million Sri Lankan citizens are from the disabled community, and whereas almost six hundred thousand citizens from among the disabled community are hearing and visually impaired citizens as well .

23.

P.20/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Computing the Z-score, the index used to select the university admissions on National Merits and School Basis at 50% each,— That this Parliament resolves that steps be taken by the government to categorize all three thousand forty two schools (3042) within the school system in which A/L stream is available computing the Z-score for university entrance admissions based on National Merits and school basis distinctively at 50% each in place of the district and remote

district basis, whereas the number of university admissions eligible for all faculties except for art faculties among the students who have passed the A/L examination is based on the Z-score as the accepted index, accordingly, whereas 40% of the Z-score is based on national merits, 55% is based on district basis and 5% is based on the remote district basis and whereas it is unfair and unjustifiable to consider or substitute the same cut-off mark for all schools in each district.

24.

P.21/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Mentioning only the initials of the family name along with the first name or the National Identity Card number when calling out the name of a person publicly,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take necessary measures to mention only the initials of the family name along with the first name or the National Identity Card number when calling out the name of a person publicly abolishing the law, the custom or the tradition that is rejected by the present generation and which cannot be applicable to the modern world whereas many persons are left embarrassed when their first names are called out loud along with the family name during a court hearing or when a voter is asked to cast the vote during an election or when an undergraduate's name is announced during a convocation whereas in the Sri Lankan society family names are mainly based on the duties vested to each person in the feudal society and the positions their ancestors had served the king therefore indicating the caste relevant to each profession.

25.

P.22/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Converting all Colleges of Education in Sri Lanka into University Faculties,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary action be taken by the Government to enforce the Cabinet decision regarding which the proposal was presented and approval obtained by me on 13th February 2020 as the Minister of Education to convert the currently functioning nineteen Colleges of Education into University Faculties to be suitable for awarding a four-year degree course with a three-year theoretical course and one-year school-based training, whereas it is necessary to make all the teachers in the school system into trained graduate teachers by the year 2023 in order to upgrade the education in Sri Lanka to the advanced international level, and whereas the majority of teachers are currently awarded a higher diploma at the end of a three-year theoretical and practical course.

26.

P.23/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Giving at least 5% representation to citizens with disabilities in the election of representatives to all public representative bodies,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should amend the relevant Acts and Laws so that citizens with disabilities have at least 5% representation in the preparation of nominations for electing representatives to all public representative bodies, whereas the disabled community in this country has exceeded 8% of the total population as per the last census conducted in Sri Lanka, whereas the space is very little for the disabled community to be elected to public representative bodies from the local government where the rural administration takes place to the Parliament where national policies are formulated and whereas the policies related to the disabled citizens of this country have not been made and are not made in accordance with the concepts of developed countries.

27.

P. 24/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Providing opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen who represent a national sports team or claim a national level record to read for any degree course related to the field of sports,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should prepare the necessary legal and higher educational structure for sportsmen and sportswomen who represent any national sports team in Sri Lanka or claim a national level record to pursue any degree course related to the field of sports, not based on their basic educational qualification or the Z-score.

28.

P.25/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Speedy implementation of the Nilwala River Development Project,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should implement speedily the preliminary plans of the Nilwala river development project with a focus on diverting the Uruboku Oya and Kirama Ara to Hambantota district in the arid zone, creating the Batuwita reservoir, Athuraliya reservoir, Kadawedduwa reservoir and Dediyaigala reservoir of the lower basin and reconstructing the abandoned bunds after making fresh studies on the safe zone and unsafe zone, all of which have a direct bearing on the districts of Matara and Hambantota, and whereas the daily lives and the economy of the people living in the Matara district and the Nilwala basin are faced with a severe crisis owing to the failure of the completion of the Nilwala River Development Scheme which was initiated in the 1980's.

29.

P.30/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— Developing sports in estate sector,— That this Parliament resolves that a Sports development program should be launched in order to get the youth contribution of the estate sector for the sports development of the country, as they have displayed their skills locally and internationally, and they do not have any sports facilities in their estate schools as well as the estate areas where they live.

30.

P.31/2024

Hon. Velu kumar,— Developing cricket in up country estate areas,— That this Parliament resolves that a special program should be implemented to provide necessary training facilities to the areas whether many talented players are residing, in order to get the contribution of the talented cricket players in estate areas, as Sri Lanka is a country which had earned international recognition in Cricket and the performance of the Sri Lankan Cricket team was very unsatisfactory in the recent past.

31.

P.32/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— Improvement of Traditional Arts of Up Country People into a Commercial Activity,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should establish a suitable centre in order to facilitate the protection of Traditional Arts and improve them as commercial activity as up country people of Indian Origin of Estate Sector is a community representing Sri Lanka, and Traditional arts such as Nadagam, Kohombakale dance, kavadi dance and traditional stick dance are seen within this community.

32.

P.33/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— Setting up a Standard and a Regulatory System for Child Day Care Centers,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take appropriate steps to set up a proper standard and a regulatory system with regard to Day Care Centers for the safety and the welfare of the children who decide the future of the country, as private parties run Day Care Centers in different areas of the country and no proper standard, methodology and a regulatory system in regard to such centers that are run by estate Companies.

33.

P.34/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— Improving the process of forest cultivation in the Central Province,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should initiate necessary measures to stop cultivating the pine trees completely and launch the natural afforestation system as an alternative whereas most of the water catchment areas in Sri Lanka are located in the central hills, especially in the Kandy and Matale districts have severely been affected by pine cultivation.

34.

P.35/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— Providing drinking water supply to the Estate community of the upcountry,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary measures be taken for the inclusion of plantation areas in the Government programme for the provision of potable water, having paid attention to the need for the implementation of drinking water supply programme carried out in other areas since the people of the plantation sector in the upcountry fulfill their drinking water requirement from natural water springs, rivers, canals and wells as a result of the poor implementation of plans for the supply of drinking water, whereas these people have to face various health problems owing to a situation where they are unable to find water suitable for drinking due to increasing population and environment pollution caused by excessive use of agrochemicals, and whereas a scarcity of water has occurred due to the diversion of water in plantation areas to other parts of the country.

35.

P.36/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— Acquisition of estate roads to the Government,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary steps be taken to acquire the estate roads to be under the Local Government and Provincial Council roads as the ownership, as management and administration of estates that have a significant place in the plantation sector of Sri Lanka are subjected to changes at different times whereas the dwellings of the plantation workers are located in the middle of the estates far away from the main road and whereas the estate roads used by these people are in highly dilapidated condition with no development.

36.

P.38/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— Regularization of the Postal Service of Sri Lanka in the Plantation Sector,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary measures be initiated by the Government to regularize the postal services for the plantation community, who have been integral to the nation for nearly two centuries, whereas marking two centuries since the establishment of settlements by plantation communities in Sri Lanka, it is

noteworthy that this community has faced with various difficulties due to the deprivation of the convenience of door step mail delivery, and whereas Sri Lanka's postal service has a history spanning two centuries which commenced in 1798 and subsequently came under regularization by the English in 1882, and whereas after independence, the Postal Service of Sri Lanka has emerged as one of the pivotal government service run by the Postal Department.

37.

P.39/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— Formulation of a programme to establish the foundational framework for the digital education system,— That this parliament resolves that the government should formulate a programme to establish a foundational framework necessary for the digital education system in Sri Lanka, given the rapidly evolving global landscape at present, requiring a corresponding change in the education system accordingly.

38.

P.41/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— Protection of depositors' savings in Co-operative Rural Banks,— That this parliament resolves that the government should implement a suitable program to ensure justice for the depositors who find themselves in dire straits as certain rural banks, such as Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Co-operative Rural Bank and Maharagama Co-operative Rural Bank have gone bankrupt despite the high level of trust that rural people have in co-operative rural banks that are part of the co-operative movement.

39.

P.42/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— Investing the monies of the Employees' Provident Fund effectively,— That this parliament resolves that a suitable programme should be implemented by the government to invest monies of the Employees' Provident Fund in productive sectors so that private sector employees could yield more benefits, whereas the National Audit Report has disclosed that no benefit has been yielded by investing the funds of the Employees' Provident Fund that has been established for the welfare of private sector employees, in the shares of companies that are not listed in the share market.

40.

P.43/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— Preparation of an institutional structure flexible to the timely changes in the Department of Railways,— That this parliament resolves that the government should prepare an institutional structure flexible to the timely changes in the Department of Railways whereas the department can no longer be maintained under the departmental framework introduced during the colonial period, in a rapidly developing world with emerging technology.

41.

P.44/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— Enhancement of Financial Literacy,— That this parliament resolves that the government should prepare a suitable programme to make the public aware of Financial Literacy from school age as financial literacy is still at a low level, whereas the literacy rate, that is the ability to read and write is high in Sri Lanka.

42.

P.46/2024

Hon. (Dr.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle,— Increasing the representation of women among the office bearers in political parties,— That this parliament resolves that necessary steps be taken by the government to ensure that every registered political party appoints at least 30% women within the decision-making level/capacity of its executive committee as a holistic approach to increasing women's participation in politics and women's representation in Parliament.

*43.

Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*44.

Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*45.

Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*46.

Gender Equality Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*47.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*48.

Public Financial Management Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*49.

Economic Transformation Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*50.

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

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*51.

Immigration Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*52.

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.)

*53.

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.)

*54.

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.)

*55.

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.)

*56.

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.

*57.

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.)

*58.

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.

*59.

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.)

*60.

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.)

61.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

62.

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

63.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

64.

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

65.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

66.

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

67.

Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.

68.
Sri Lanka Insurance Institute (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
69.
Marriages (General) (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
70.
Muslim Marriage and Divorce (Repeal) Bill — Second Reading.
71.
Plastics and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
72.
Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
73.
Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.
74.
Community Association of Professionals (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
75.
Arundika Fernando Relief Services and Godfrey Fernando Memorial Foundation (Incorporation) Bill— Second Reading.
76.
Hector Appuhamy Helping Hand Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
77.
Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
78.
Vanni Mann Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

* *Indicates Government Business.*
