



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 42.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Tuesday, August 06, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

1702/2024

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,— (2)

(a) Will he inform this House of the —

- (i) number of officers serving by now in the posts of Inspector of Police, Sergeant and Police Constable of Sri Lanka Police, separately;
- (ii) number of vacancies that exist for each of the said posts by now, separately;
- (iii) methodology followed in granting promotions to the officers serving in the said posts;
- (iv) time taken to be promoted to the post of Inspector of Police from the post of Police Sergeant; and
- (v) methodology followed by now in recruiting Police Constables to Sri Lanka police?

(b) If not, why?

2.

1730/2024

Hon. Jagath Priyankara,— To ask the Minister of Industries,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House of the —

- (i) number of Industrial Zones, established in Puttalam district;
- (ii) number of factories in each of aforesaid Industrial Zones and separately, of the number of direct and indirect employment, generated; and
- (iii) measures, taken for the development of infrastructure and the other facilities in the aforesaid Industrial Zones?

(b) If not, why?

(2)

3.

1740/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of —
 - (i) the number of warehouses of paddy belonging to the government in the Ampara district;
 - (ii) their locations;
 - (iii) the volume of paddy that can be stored in each of the above mentioned warehouses, separately; and
 - (iv) the volume of paddy that was stored in the above warehouses from 2015, in relation to each year, separately?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether there are warehouses that are not used at present out of the warehouses of paddy mentioned in (a) (i) above;
 - (ii) if so, the number of those warehouses;
 - (iii) their locations;
 - (iv) the measures that have been taken to reuse those warehouses; and
 - (v) the programmes that have been earmarked to be implemented to make the maximum usage of the warehouses of paddy in the Ampara district?
- (c) If not, why?

4.

1752/2024

Hon. Ishak Rahuman,—To ask the Minister of Health,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of government hospitals in Anuradhapura District;
 - (ii) of the number of doctors serving in such hospitals;
 - (iii) of the number of ambulances deployed to such hospitals;
 - (iv) whether he is aware that building facilities are minimal at rural hospitals in the District; and
 - (v) whether steps have been taken to overcome the existing deficiencies referred to above?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) whether he is aware that higher number of kidney patients are recorded at Anuradhapura District; and
 - (ii) if so, whether they are provided with adequate health facilities?
- (c) If not, why?

(3)

5.

1877/2024

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna,— To ask the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation — (2)

- (a) Will she inform this House —
 - (i) whether she is aware that people in number of villages situated in the vicinity of Moragahakanda project site of Matale district are facing threats from wild elephants due to the aforesaid project;
 - (ii) of the names of such villages;
 - (iii) separately, of the number of families that are currently facing threats from wild elephants in each village; and
 - (iv) of the measures that will be taken to mitigate threats from wild elephants?
- (b) If not, why?

6.

1915/2024

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of branch outlets currently maintained by Lanka Sathosa Limited;
 - (ii) of the number of outlets that are making profits and losses annually among those outlets separately;
 - (iii) of the steps that have been taken to make the loss-making outlets profitable; and
 - (iv) whether action will be taken to close down the loss-making outlets;
- (b) If not, why ?

7.

1919/2024

Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe, — To ask the Minister of Women and Child Affairs, — (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House separately —
 - (i) of the number of cases of child abuse and violence against children, abuse of women and violence against women that have taken place in Sri Lanka from 2019 to date;
 - (ii) out of the aforesaid numbers of cases of abuse/violence, of the number of those regarding which legal action has been taken; and
 - (iii) out of the aforesaid cases, of the number of those that have been settled?
- (b) If not, why?

(4)

8.

1944/2024

Hon. Milan Jayathilake,— To ask the Minister of Fisheries,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of people engaged in the ornamental fish industry targeting the international market;
 - (ii) number of ornamental fish exported per year; and
 - (iii) measures that have been taken to promote the ornamental fish industry in Sri Lanka?
- (b) If not, why?

9.

1971/2024

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udakumbura,— To ask the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of poultry farms in Sri Lanka, their average annual egg production, the average annual egg consumption of Sri Lanka and the number of eggs imported into Sri Lanka each year separately; and
 - (ii) measures taken to stabilize the constantly fluctuating price of eggs in the market?
- (b) If not, why?

10.

2138/2024

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

- (a) Will he admit —
 - (i) that a policy decision has been taken with the approval of the Board of Directors of the National Livestock Development Board at the Cabinet meeting held on 08.04.2015 to remove 235 families residing in the land belonging to the National Livestock Development Board in Maberiyathanna Grama Niladhari Division of Medadumbara Divisional Secretariat Division, for the construction of the Maberiyathanna Domestic Airport ;
 - (ii) that the occupants of the said land have been in great hardship due to the delay in implementing the said decision up to now; and
 - (iii) that several houses have been damaged due to construction work?
 - (b) Will he inform this House whether measures will be taken as per the Cabinet decision, to provide alternative land as soon as possible for the people who lose their houses due to the construction of this airport?
 - (c) If not, why?
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(5)

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.

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law,— Leave to introduce Bill,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the International Traditional Sihelogy Council (ITSC).”

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

1.

Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

*2.

Medical (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*3.

Medical (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*4.

Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*5.

Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*6.

Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*7.

Gender Equality 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.

Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*11.

Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*12.

Safeguard Measures (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*13.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*14.

Mediation Boards (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*15.

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.)

*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. 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.)

*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. 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.)

*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;

(8)

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.

*20.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Notification under the Excise Ordinance,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 32 read with Section 25 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2366/39 of 12th January 2024, which was presented on 12.07.2024, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 02/2024).

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*21.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and with the concurrence of the Governing Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in relation to offshore banking business, under Section 71 read with Sections 27, 28 and 45 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2387/38 of 06th June 2024, which were presented on 23.07.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*22.

The 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 Colombo International Container Terminals Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2382/33 of 03rd May 2024, which was presented on 25.07.2024, be approved.

(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. 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), 6 and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2390/19 of 28th June 2024, which were presented on 26.07.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*24.

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.)

*25.

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.

*26.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,— Regulations under the Debt Conciliation Ordinance,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Sections 6 and 10 read with Section 63 of the Debt Conciliation Ordinance (Chapter 81) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2381/23 of 22nd April 2024, which was presented on 12.07.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*27.

The Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs,— Order under the Tourism Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Tourism and Lands under Section 26(1) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005 on the recommendation of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority with regard to the declaration of a tourist development area and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2364/29 of 28th December 2023, which was presented on 09.07.2024, be approved.

28.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

29.

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

30.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

31.

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

32.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

33.

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

34.

Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.

35.

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

36.

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

37.

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

38.

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

39.

Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

40.

Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.

41.

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

42.

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

43.

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

44.

Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

45.

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

46.

Institute of World Life Line Yoga (Incorporation) — Second Reading.

* *Indicates Government Business.*
