



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 43.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

1996/2024

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara,— To ask the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House whether he admits the fact that—
 - (i) a loss of 73 million dollars is incurred due to the lease of a 14-acre land owned by the Sri Lanka Port Authority to another company/ institution for service provision and the construction of warehouses without a procurement process at a price lower than the government's valuation; and
 - (ii) the Sri Lanka Ports Authority incur a loss due to the extension of the maximum lease period of 35 years to 50 years in the above lease?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

2021/2024

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,— (2)

- (a) Is he aware that—
 - (i) a financial institution called Privelth Global (Pvt.) Ltd has been running since 05.02.2014 in the areas of Samanthurai, Kalmunai, Pothuvil, Eravur and Maruthamunai;
 - (ii) Ahmed Shereem Mohamed Sihaf (Sihaf Shereem) who was the director of the aforesaid institution and Fatima Farzana Markar have defrauded 1400 people of more than 1700 million rupees;
 - (iii) the aforementioned director and his family are currently absconding in India; and
 - (iv) complaints have been made to Kalmunai and Samanthurai police stations in this regard?
- (b) Will he inform this House of the steps that will be taken to arrest the above persons and bring them to Sri Lanka?
- (c) If not, why?

(2)

3.

2048/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the amount of money spent on the construction of the Colombo “Lotus Tower”;
 - (ii) whether foreign grants were received for its construction;
 - (iii) if so, separately, the amount of money received as foreign grants;
 - (iv) of the amount of public funds spent on the construction of the tower;
 - (v) of the institutions from which the said funds were obtained; and
 - (vi) separately, of the total income and the expenditure of the said tower in each year since its inception?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) whether tenders have been called for the construction of the Lotus Tower;
 - (ii) if not, the method of selecting the concerned construction company; and
 - (iii) of the name of the Sri Lankan agent if the said construction was carried out by a foreign company;
- (c) If not, why?

4.

2057/2024

Hon. Velu Kumar,— To ask the Minister of Environment,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House of—
 - (i) the name of the company engaged in the mining industry in Ambalamana Grama Niladhari Division of the Pathahewahata Divisional Secretariat Division in Kandy District;
 - (ii) the type of license issued to the said institution;
 - (iii) the type of minerals excavated by the said institution;
 - (iv) the land extent on which excavations are being carried out by the said institution; and
 - (v) the owners of the said land?
 - (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether the above excavation work has been carried out as per the prescribed standards; and
 - (ii) if not, of the measures that have been taken so far in that regard?
 - (c) If not, why?
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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 10.00 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. Yadamini Gunawardena,— Leave to introduce Bill,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Kodhagoda Gunarathana Nahimi Foundation.”

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*1.

Medical (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*2.

Medical (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*3.

Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*4.

Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*5.

Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*6.

Gender Equality Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*7.

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

(Cabinet approval signified.)

(4)

*8.

Immigration Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*9.

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

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*10.

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

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*11.

Safeguard Measures (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*12.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*13.

Mediation Boards (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*14.

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.)

*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. 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.)

*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. 2296/30 of 09th September 2022, which were presented on 06.10.2022, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*17.

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.)

*18.

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;

(6)

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

(7)

- (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.

*19.

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.)

*20.

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.)

*21.

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.)

*22.

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.)

*23.

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.)

*24.

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.

*25.

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.)

*26.

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.

27.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

28.

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

29.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

30.

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

31.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

32.

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

33.

Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.

34.

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

35.

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

36.

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

37.

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

38.

Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

39.

Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.

40.

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

41.

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

42.

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

43.

Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

44.

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

45.

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

* *Indicates Government Business.*

QUESTIONS NOT FOR ORAL ANSWERS

2152/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of the reasons and methods by which Sri Lanka Cement Corporation (SLCC) entered into an agreement with Asha Minerals (Pvt.) Ltd. for exploration and development violating the Mines and Minerals Act, the Intellectual Property Act and the fundamental rights of Puttalam Ilmenite Limited (PIL) which possessed required licenses long before Asha Minerals (Pvt.) Ltd.?
 - (b) Will he also inform this House of the—
 - (i) reasons for not taking action for the letter dated 23.05.2023 of the Ministry of Industries;
 - (ii) outcome of the appeal of PIL forwarded to the Ministry of Finance on 19.10.2023;
 - (iii) reasons for not following the instructions given to the SLCC by the Ministry of Finance on 30.01.2024 and 11.03.2024 respectively; and
 - (iv) manner in which the compliance is enforced on SLCC by the line Ministry and the sole shareholder that is Treasury?
 - (c) If not, why?
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