



*(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)*

No. 44.]

## ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Thursday, August 08, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

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### QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

5/2024

Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Environment,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
  - (i) of the number of licensed quarries operative in Kandy district by now, separately according to each Divisional Secretariat Division;
  - (ii) whether the relevant Pradeshiya Sabha, Divisional Secretariat and the Central Environmental Authority have been reported about the harmful impact caused by these quarries on the people of Malpana, Heepitiya and Ahaspokuna in Kundasale Divisional Secretariat Division; and
  - (iii) if so, of the measures taken in that regard?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
  - (i) whether he has been informed about the environmental issues that have arisen in the areas where these quarries are located and the damages caused to the property and the danger to the lives of residents in their neighbourhood by now;
  - (ii) whether he is aware of the fact that quarrying is done at certain sites without adhering to the proper standards; and
  - (iii) of the steps that will be taken to sustain the said industry, to ensure job security in that sector and to ensure the safety of the residents in the neighborhood of those quarries?
- (c) If not, why?

2.

44/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House —
  - (i) of the number of cigarettes that were sold in Sri Lanka from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2023 and the revenue earned by the government from it, separately in respect of each year;

(2)

- (ii) whether the Government will take action to increase cigarette prices further;
  - (iii) if so, by what amount;
  - (iv) whether measures have been taken to discourage the sale of cigarettes; and
  - (v) if so, what those measures are?
- (b) If not, why?

3.

313/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of the—
- (i) date on which the Rajapaksa International Airport, Mattala was declared open;
  - (ii) annual income and expenditure of the said airport from the said date to this, separately according to each year; and
  - (iii) measures that will be taken regarding the drop of revenue of the said airport?
- (b) If not, why?

4.

362/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperum,— To ask from the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— (1)

- (a) Will he state of the —
- (i) number of Presidential Commissions of Inquiry appointed since 1990 by each Executive President of Sri Lanka;
  - (ii) number of such commissions, according to the subject areas of national security, national economy, education, electoral reforms and disclosure of corruption and according to each executive president, separately; and
  - (iii) offenders identified and the punishments recommended to be meted out to them separately by each commission; according to the reports of the commissions mentioned in (i) above?
- (b) Will he also state —
- (i) of the amount of money spent for each of the above mentioned commissions separately;
  - (ii) whether the final reports of the above commissions are available for the reference of the public;

(3)

- (iii) if not, the reasons thereof;
  - (iv) of the commissions which have not hitherto issued a final report; and
  - (v) of the period in which each such Commission was appointed and the members separately;
- (c) If not, why?

5.

371/2024

Hon. Niroshan Perera,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,— (3)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) whether the Government of Sri Lanka has entered into an agreement to obtain financial consultancy services from M/S Lazards-France company;
  - (ii) if so, of the primary obligations of the above company as per the said agreement; and
  - (iii) of the amount of money to be paid by the Government of Sri Lanka in terms of the above agreement and the amount paid so far separately in Sri Lankan Rupees and US Dollars?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
- (i) whether the Government has entered into an agreement to procure legal consultancy services from M/S Clifford Chance LLP Company;
  - (ii) of the primary obligations of the above company as per the said agreement; and
  - (iii) of the amount of money to be paid by the Government of Sri Lanka in terms of the above agreement and the amount paid so far separately in Sri Lanka Rupees and US Dollars?
- (c) If not, why?

6.

2079/2024

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena,— To ask the Minister of Mass Media,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
- (i) number of religious festivals that have been broadcast live from 2015 to date, by state-owned radio channels and television channels, separately according to each year;
  - (ii) names of those festivals;
  - (iii) amount of expenditure incurred in covering the aforesaid events;

(4)

- (iv) amount charged so far and the amount to be charged for the coverage of those events, separately each year; and
- (v) steps to be taken to recover the amount due?

(b) If not, why?

7.

2087/2024

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha,— To ask the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) of the members of the five-member committee appointed to investigate into incidents alleged to have taken place during the T-20 cricket tournament held in Australia in the year 2022;
- (ii) separately, of names, designations, addresses of the players and officials of the Sri Lanka Cricket who were accused in connection with the incidents alleged to have taken place during the above tournament and the allegations against each of the above players/officials as per the said committee report;
- (iii) of the recommendations given by the above committee; and
- (iv) of the measures that will be taken to implement the above recommendations expeditiously?

(b) If not, why?

8.

2111/2024

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(2)

(a) Will he inform this House, separately of the—

- (i) capital gains earned by the recognized 14 primary dealers separately for the period ending 30.06.2022 in respect of Treasury Bills and Bonds issued by the Sri Lankan government;
- (ii) capital gains earned by the same dealers separately for the period ending 30.06.2023 in respect of Treasury Bills and Bonds issued by the Sri Lankan government;
- (iii) total capital gains earned by these dealers for the period ending 30.06.2022; and
- (iv) total capital gains earned by these dealers for the period ending 30.06.2023?

(b) Will he also inform this House—

- (i) whether there was a significant increase in capital gains earned by these dealers for the period ending 30.06.2023;
- (ii) if so, the reasons; and
- (iii) separately, the amount of tax paid by these dealers on this windfall?

(c) If not, why?

9.

2149/2024

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that—
  - (i) applications were called through a Gazette Notification dated 31.08.2018 to fill the vacancies in the post of government teacher excluding Eastern Province and an open competitive examination in this connection was held in 2019;
  - (ii) the results of the above examination have been released after a prolonged period of 05 years; and
  - (iii) however, the final results of the interview have not yet been published?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
  - (i) whether the above vacancies have already been filled;
  - (ii) if so, on what basis were the above vacancies filled;
  - (iii) the current status of those who have passed the aforementioned examination;
  - (iv) the current progress of holding the aforesaid final interview;
  - (v) if the above vacancies are not yet filled, the date the vacancies are going to be filled; and
  - (vi) on what basis the above vacancies are filled?
- (c) If not, why?

10.

2150/2024

Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar,— To ask the Minister of Urban Development and Housing,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
  - (i) of the methodology followed in providing 'Urban Housing Ownership' mentioned in the 2024 budget proposals;
  - (ii) of the number of houses selected to be given title deeds among the apartment schemes belonging to the National Housing Development Authority and the Urban Development Authority separately according to each housing scheme;
  - (iii) of the number of residents who have been given title deeds among the residents of the apartments separately according to each housing scheme;
  - (iv) of the expected dates on which title deeds will be given to residents of apartments who have not been given title deeds so far;

(6)

- (v) whether the residents of apartments will be exempted from paying rent or rent premiums from the year 2024 after the title deeds are issued; and
  - (vi) whether residents of apartments are exempted from payment of notary fees, stamp duty and tax when issuing title deeds?
- (b) If not, why?

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AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

**Notice of Presentation of Bills**

1.

The Minister of Public Security,— Online Safety (Amendment),— Bill to amend the Online Safety Act, No. 9 of 2024.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

**Notice of Motions**

2.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Business of the Parliament,— That the proceedings on Item No. 3 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

3.

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena,— Leave to introduce Bill,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Kodhagoda Gunarathana Nahimi Foundation.”

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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.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act,— That this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2396/04 of 05<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the president in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979, which was presented on 07.08.2024, be approved.

\*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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 09<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, which was presented on 02.04.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

\*19.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Resolution for the Implementation of External Debt Restructuring Agreements,— Whereas, in March 2022, Sri Lanka faced a severe debt sustainability crisis as Foreign Exchange Reserves experienced continuous depletion and consequently, on the advice of the Monetary Board of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka suspended public external debt repayments to prevent further deterioration of the economic situation;

And whereas, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) initiated negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to restructure the debt and find a solution to the crisis, following a transparent disclosure of the severe issue to the public and upon stakeholder consultation, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) appointed Lazard as Financial Advisors and Clifford Chance LLP as Legal Advisors to represent GOSL in negotiations with the IMF;

And whereas, the IMF conducted a comprehensive review of Sri Lanka's financial situation and issued a Debt Sustainability Assessment, delineating the challenges and potential solutions and in accordance with the IMF's roadmap, a rigorous debt restructuring procedure was subsequently initiated by Sri Lanka;

And whereas, despite the suspension of foreign debt repayments, which included bilateral creditor repayments and payments to Sovereign Bondholders, Sri Lanka remained committed to servicing multilateral creditor payments;

And whereas, pursuant to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 28<sup>th</sup> 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;

(10)

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 06<sup>th</sup> 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 03<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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#### QUESTIONS NOT FOR ORAL ANSWERS

2146/2024

Hon. Asanka Navarathna,— To ask the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,— (2)

(a) Will he state —

- (i) whether the privately-owned lands of artist Solias Mendis, who resided in Mahawewa, Chilaw, has been transferred to the management of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress;
- (ii) if so, the time period during which the said lands were transferred;
- (iii) the manner in which the said lands were transferred;
- (iv) what the relevant last will/certificate is;
- (v) the name, size, and location of each such land separately;
- (vi) whether the above lands have been subsequently alienated by the Congress; and
- (vii) if so, on which grounds?

(14)

- (b) Will he also state—
- (i) the amount of annual income earned separately from each land mentioned in (a) (v) above from the date of transfer to date;
  - (ii) the measures taken for the development and protection of the said lands and the buildings thereon since the date of transfer to date; and
  - (iii) whether a program has been proposed to develop the Children's Home "Siviraja" established on a land in Mahawewa belonging to Mr. Solias Mendis?
- (c) If not, why?
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