



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 47.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Tuesday, September 03, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

1157/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) of the number of Sri Lankan students who go abroad for higher education purposes in one year on average and the amount spent for it separately;
 - (ii) of the countries which they visit for higher education;
 - (iii) of the degree courses that such students follow; and
 - (iv) whether those degree courses cannot be followed in Sri Lanka?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

1249/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) whether he is aware that as per the GSP+ status granted, Sri Lanka required to implement several provisions related to workers' rights and protection;
 - (ii) if so, of the steps taken to safeguard workers' rights; and
 - (iii) of the reasons, if no such steps have been taken yet?
- (b) Is he aware of the —
- (i) lack of protective measures for workers who are employed in the garment industry and some garment factories have stopped providing them meals; and

(2)

- (ii) denial of freedom of association of workers in garment factories has implications for both male and female workers and it especially affects the female workers who are subjected to sexual harassments within the working station?
- (c) Will he further inform this House of the steps taken to—
 - (i) protect workers who are employed in garment industry; and
 - (ii) hold Employers accountable for the violations of workers' rights?
- (d) If not, why?

3.

1255/2024

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana,—To ask the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of terminals operating in Colombo Port, including container handling;
 - (ii) names of them; and
 - (iii) companies that holds the ownership of each of the said terminals, separately?
- (b) Will he also inform this House separately in each year, of the —
 - (i) number of containers handled by each of the above mentioned terminals and the income earned from the year 2015 upto now; and
 - (ii) income received by Sri Lanka Ports Authority from the aforesaid income?
- (c) If not, why?

4.

1288/2024

Hon. Kins Nelson,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of government schools in the Polonnaruwa district;
 - (ii) names of those schools;
 - (iii) number of schools that offer subjects in the Technical stream at present, out of those schools;
 - (iv) names of those schools; and
 - (v) steps that would be taken to popularize the Technical stream among the students of the Polonnaruwa district?
- (b) If not, why?

(3)

5.

1706/2024

Hon. K.P.S. Kumarasiri, — To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of farms owned by the government;
 - (ii) of the total extent of land owned by aforesaid farms in acres;
 - (iii) whether the aforementioned total extent of land has been utilized for agricultural purposes productively;
 - (iv) whether the lands that have not been utilized productively, will be given to private entrepreneurs for agricultural purposes on a temporary basis; and
 - (v) if so, the extent of land that can be provided?
- (b) If not, why?

6.

1732/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) total number of faculties in the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) names of those faculties; and
 - (iii) courses offered in each faculty?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) of the courses that have been approved for the Faculty of Engineering in the aforesaid university;
 - (ii) whether he is aware that faculty was supposed to be built in the Wennappuwa area in Puttalam district; and
 - (iii) if so, the present progress of the construction of that Engineering Faculty?
- (c) If not, why?

7.

1746/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of state-owned paddy warehouses available in the Bataloa District;
 - (ii) of the places where the said warehouses are located;
 - (iii) separately, of the capacity of each of those warehouses;

(4)

- (iv) separately, of the amounts of paddy that were stored in each of those warehouses in each year from 2015 to date; and
 - (v) of the nature of the programmes that are expected to be implemented in order to get the maximum utilization of the said warehouses?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
- (i) whether there are any paddy warehouses that are not utilized at present out of the warehouses referred to in (a)(i) above;
 - (ii) if so, of the number of such paddy warehouses;
 - (iii) of the places where those warehouses are located; and
 - (iv) of the measures that have been taken to bring those paddy warehouses back to operation?
- (c) If not, why?

8.

1755/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) whether he accepts that the residents, living in rented houses face various difficulties in enrolling their children in government schools and obtaining national identity cards due to the inability of establishing the ownership of their lands and producing water bills/ electricity bills obtained in their names ?
 - (ii) if so, of the measures that are being taken to address aforesaid issues?
- (b) If not, why?

9.

1880/2024

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna,— To ask the Minister of Education,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) whether there is a specific transfer policy for officers of the Sri Lanka Principals Service and Sri Lanka Teachers Service;
 - (ii) of the main components and criteria contained in the said transfer policy;
 - (iii) whether it is known that no specific transfer policy is in place for officers of the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service; and
 - (iv) if so, of the steps that will be taken to implement a specific transfer policy for the officers of the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service?
- (b) If not, why?

10.

2020/2024

Hon. S. M. Marikkar,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) whether he is aware that the customers of Edirisinghe Trust Investment Limited (ETI), which was run on the approval of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, got into difficulty owing to the cessation of its business activities in early 2018;
 - (ii) of the value of the assets of that institution following the decision of the court that it should be liquidated at the latter part of 2023;
 - (iii) of that, the amount of money that has been set aside to be paid to the depositors of that institution;
 - (iv) whether a specific date of the payment of such monies has been decided; and
 - (v) if so, that date?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of the —
 - (i) responsibilities on the owners of a company under the Companies Act at an occasion of this type; and
 - (ii) future steps that the Central Bank of Sri Lanka will take in relation to the above customers?
- (c) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Presentation of Bills

1.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Commission for Truth, Unity and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka,— Bill to provide for the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Unity and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka; to set out the powers and functions of such Commission; to provide for the establishment of the monitoring committee of the Commission for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth, Unity and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

2.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— National Land Commission,— Bill to provide for the establishment of the National Land Commission for giving effect to the provisions of paragraph 3 of appendix II to the list I (Provincial Council list) of ninth schedule to the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

(6)

3.

The Minister of Industries,— Companies (Amendment),— Bill to amend the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

Notice of Motions

4.

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi,— Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1),— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Jagath Kumara Sisu Nena Foundation.”

5.

Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law,— Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2),— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Tredzo Development Foundation.”

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*1.

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

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*2.

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

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*3.

National Minimum Wage of Workers (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*4.

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), 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.)

(7)

*5.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act (No. 1),— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in relation to offshore banking business carried out in and from the Area of Authority of the Colombo Port City, under Section 71 read with Section 44 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2394/66 of 26th July 2024, which were presented on 21.08.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*6.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act (No. 2),— 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 Central Bank of Sri Lanka in relation to offshore banking business carried out in and from the Area of Authority of the Colombo Port City, under Section 71 read with Section 45 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2394/67 of 26th July 2024, which were presented on 21.08.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*7.

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. 2393/36 of 18th July 2024, which were presented on 21.08.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*8.

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.)

- *9.
Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *10.
Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *11.
Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *12.
Gender Equality Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *13.
Immigration Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *14.
Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *15.
Safeguard Measures (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *16.
Penal Code (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *17.
Mediation Boards (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *18.
Online Safety (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *19.
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. 2384/35 of 17th May 2024, which were presented on 18.06.2024, be approved.
(Cabinet approval signified.)

*20.

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) 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.)

*21.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 5),— 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.)

*22.

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.)

*23.

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;

(10)

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;

(11)

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.

*24.

Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Foreign Exchange Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2389/08 of 18th June 2024, which was presented on 06.08.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*25.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 17 read with Section 11 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, No. 28 of 2005 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2382/11 of 30th April 2024, which were presented on 21.08.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*26.

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.)

*27.

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.

*28.

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.)

*29.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— 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.

*30.

Minister of Power and Energy,— Regulations under the Petroleum Resources Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Power and Energy under Section 48 read with Section 19(2) of the Petroleum Resources Act, No. 21 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2393/11 of 15th July 2024, which were presented on 06.08.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

31.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

32.

Sathya Sri Ghanapathi Bhakthi Jana Sewa Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Consideration.

33.

Institute of Drafting Technologists Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Consideration.

34.

Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

35.

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

36.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

37.

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

38.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

39.

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

40.

Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.

41.

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

42.

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

43.

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

44.

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

45.

Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

46.

Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.

47.

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

48.

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

49.

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

50.

Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

51.

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

* *Indicates Government Business.*
