



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 48.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Wednesday, September 04, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

1922/2024

Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) total land area where rubber is cultivated;
 - (ii) aforementioned land area in terms of each district, separately;
 - (iii) annual sheet rubber production in Sri Lanka;
 - (iv) annual income earned from exporting rubber; and
 - (v) areas planned for future rubber cultivation?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

1946/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) whether the Department of Labour has information on persons employed as domestic workers in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) if so, of the number of domestic workers currently employed in Sri Lanka; and
 - (iii) of the measures adopted by the Department of Labour for their safety and protection?
- (b) If not, why?

(2)

3.

1974/2024

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura,—To ask the Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) rapidly eroding coastal zones in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) number of coastal zones that have been conserved so far among the coastal zones that have been eroded;
 - (iii) number of coastal zones that are currently under conservation;
 - (iv) total amount spent on coastal conservation projects since 2019; and
 - (v) amount raised through foreign loans for coastal conservation projects as a percentage of the total amount mentioned above?
- (b) If not, why?

4.

1997/2024

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, — To ask the Minister of Defence,— (1)

- (a) Is he aware that the —
 - (i) State Minister in charge of the subject attempts to utilize the funds of the Disaster Management Center mainly on the needs of Matale District; and
 - (ii) Director General of the Disaster Management Center has not agreed to this arrangement?
- (b) Considering this situation, will he inform this House whether the current Director General of the Disaster Management Center be removed and a suitable appointment be made?
- (c) If not, why?

5.

2140/2024

Hon. Tissa Attanayake,— To ask the Minister of Investment Promotion,— (1)

- (a) Is he aware that —
 - (i) the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka has given its approval to the Hidden Valley Eco Golf Resort project being implemented by Alpha & Omega Developers (Pvt.) Ltd. in Beragala and comprising golf courses, golf resorts, 600 villas, an international hospital, an Ayurvedic hospital, two five-star hotels, and a botanical garden?

(3)

- (ii) a land of 628 acres of Kudakataragama Devalaya in Soragune, Haldummulla Divisional Secretariat Division has been purchased for that purpose and documents including legal deeds, extracts of folios, plans and official Devala grants with letters from the then Basnayake Nilames and the Commissioner General of Buddhist are available for the said land; and
- (iii) however, commencement of the said project has been delayed for about seven years since the approval of the Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs and the consent of the present and previous Nilames of the said Devalaya have not been given for the aforesaid project;
- (b) Will he inform this House whether approval will be given to commence this project expeditiously since 30 million US dollars have been spent on the above project by now ?
- (c) 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. 6 and 7 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.

2.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Sittings of the Parliament,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 08th, 2024.

3.

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.”

4.

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.

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.)

*2.

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.)

*3.

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.)

*4.

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.)

*5.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 1),— 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.)

*6.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 2),— 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 Chec Port City Colombo (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2396/60 of 09th August 2024, which was presented on 03.09.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*7.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Rules under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Act,— That the Rules made by the Chairperson of the Governing Board and Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka under Section 105 read with Section 7(1)(c) and Part VI of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Act, No. 16 of 2023 relating to Repatriation of Export Proceeds into Sri Lanka, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2391/02 of 01st July 2024, which were presented on 03.09.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*8.

Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*9.

Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*10.

Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*11.

Gender Equality Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*12.

Immigration Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

- *13.
Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *14.
Safeguard Measures (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *15.
Penal Code (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *16.
Mediation Boards (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *17.
Online Safety (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *18.
Public Assets Management Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *19.
Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *20.
Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *21.
Rent (Repeal) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *22.
Protection of Occupants Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *23.
Bills of Exchange (Amendment)— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *24.
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.)

(7)

*25.

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.)

*26.

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.)

*27.

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.)

*28.

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;

(9)

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.

*29.

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.)

*30.

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.)

*31.

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.)

*32.

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.

*33.

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.)

*34.

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.

*35.

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.)

36.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

37.

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

38.

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

39.

Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

40.

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

41. Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
42. Roshan Ranasinghe Janasahana Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
43. Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
44. Institute of Sport for Peace, Education, Empowerment and Development (SPEED) (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
45. Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.
46. Sri Lanka Insurance Institute (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
47. Marriages (General) (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
48. Muslim Marriage and Divorce (Repeal) Bill — Second Reading.
49. Plastics and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
50. Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
51. Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.
52. Community Association of Professionals (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
53. Arundika Fernando Relief Services and Godfrey Fernando Memorial Foundation (Incorporation) Bill— Second Reading.
54. Hector Appuhamy Helping Hand Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
55. Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.
56. Vanni Mann Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

* *Indicates Government Business.*

QUESTIONS NOT FOR ORAL ANSWERS

2160/2024

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna,— To ask the Minister of Education,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the names of —
 - (i) schools which are categorized under 1C among the Tamil medium schools in Kalutara Educational Zone; and
 - (ii) schools that do not have Principals and Deputy Principals among above schools, separately?
 - (b) Will he admit that —
 - (i) more than one Deputy Principal appointments have been given to some Tamil medium schools in Kalutara Educational Zone in the recent appointments for those who passed the examination for the recruitment of Principals;
 - (ii) a Deputy Principal has not been appointed so far, to Al Hassaniya Maha Vidyalaya, Maggona that does not have a Deputy Principal; and
 - (iii) the above school faces shortage of teachers for the subjects of Mathematics, English, Health Science, History and, Information Technology and Primary teachers?
 - (c) Will he also inform this House of the actions that will be taken to fill the vacancy of Deputy Principal and the vacancies for teachers?
 - (d) if not why?
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