



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 182.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 1.00 p. m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan, Deputy Chairman of Committees

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana, Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and State Minister of Mahaweli Development

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Special Assignment

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka, Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms and the Chief Government Whip

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Higher Education and Highways and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Minister of Sports

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake, Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage

Hon. S. B. Nawinne, Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife

- Hon. Harin Fernando**, Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure
- Hon. Sajith Premadasa**, Minister of Housing and Construction
- Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen**, Minister of Industry and Commerce
- Hon. (Mrs.) Chandrani Bandara**, Minister of Women and Child Affairs
- Hon. Tilak Marapana**, Minister of Development Assignments
- Hon. Faiszer Musthapha**, Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
- Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka**, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development
- Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga**, Minister of Petroleum Resources Development
- Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakse**, Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana
- Hon. Chandima Weerakkody**, Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training
- Hon. Malik Samarawickrama**, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade
- Hon. Mangala Samaraweera**, Minister of Finance and Mass Media
- Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe**, Minister of Ports and Shipping
- Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya**, Minister of Power and Renewable Energy
- Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne**, Ministry of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Sabaragamu Development
- Hon. D. M. Swaminathan**, Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs
- Hon. Kabir Hashim**, Minister of Public Enterprise Development
- Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka**, Minister of Regional Development
- Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena**, State Minister of Public Enterprise Development
- Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare**, State Minister of Agriculture
- Hon. T. B. Ekanayake**, State Minister of Lands
- Hon. Dilan Perera**, State Minister of Highways
- Hon. Niroschan Perera**, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs
- Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**, State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply
- Hon. A. D. Premadasa**, State Minister of Industry and Commerce Affairs
- Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**, State Minister of Finance
- Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene**, State Minister of Defence
- Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi**, State Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
- Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera**, State Minister of Labour and Trade Unions Relations

Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, State Minister of Science, Technology and Research
Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. M. L. A. M. Hizbullah, State Minister of Rehabilitation and Resettlement
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie, State Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Finance and Mass Media
Hon. Dunesh Gankanda, Deputy Minister of Disaster Management
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Deputy Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva, Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs
Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training
Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries
Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka, Deputy Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage
Hon. Duleep Wijsekera, Deputy Minister of Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs
Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen, Deputy Minister of Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardana
Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri

Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha

Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe

Hon. Rajavarthiam Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. E. Saravanapavan

Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti

Hon. Kanaka Herath

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker : Speaker made the following announcement:-

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled ‘Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment)’ on 25th July 2017 in terms of the Provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Order declared by the President under Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979 relating to the supply and distribution of fuel including petroleum products and gas and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2029/23 of 25th July 2017.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Order made by the President under Section 3 of the Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977 relating to Extradition Treaty between Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Ukraine published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2021/47 of 02nd June 2017 and moved that this Order be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Delimitation Commission for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Reports of the Shrama Vasana Fund for the years 2013 and 2014 and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the,—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education and Highways under Section 27 (1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the upgrading of English Language Teaching Unit to Department of English Language Teaching in the Faculty of Arts and Culture of South Eastern University and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2023/31 of 14th June 2017;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education and Highways under Section 27 (1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of Department of Microbiology and Department of Parasitology in the Faculty of Medicine of University of Jaffna and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2023/32 of 14th June 2017; and

- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education and Highways under Section 27 (1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of Department of International Studies, Department of Social Statistics and Department of Political Sciences in the Faculty of Social Sciences of University of Kelaniya and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2023/33 of 14th June 2017.

and moved that these Orders be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (9) The Minister of Ports and Shipping presented the Draft Concession Agreement for the Port of Hambantota.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (10) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Buddhist Affairs for the year 2016; and
(ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Buddhasasana for the year 2016.

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (11) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the University of Vocational Technology for the year 2013 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (12) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Regulation made by the Minister of Sports under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 with regard to regulations on National Sports Associations and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2017/41 of 05th May 2017 and moved that this Regulation be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. S. B. Nawinne presented a petition dated 03.02.2017 from Mr. W.M. Sarath Nandasiri Bandara of Weerasolaya, Bakmeewewa, Ambanpola.
- (2) Hon. Harin Fernando presented a petition dated 27.11.2016 from Mr. W.M. Yasapala of 'Wijaya', Wewewatta, Keppetipola.

- (3) Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe presented a petition dated 16.06.2017 from Mr. A. Ranjith Wijesiri of No. 23/64, Magazine Road, Borella, Colombo - 08.
- (4) Hon. Lucky Jayawardana presented —
- (i) a petition dated 17.05.2017 from Mr. Arambegedara Sanjeewa Ravindra Rajapaksha of No. 130, Kotakedeniya Road, Weligalla;
 - (ii) a petition dated 01.07.2017 from Mr. D.M.T.B. Dissanayaka of No. 01, Imbuldeniya, Handessa;
 - (iii) a petition dated 06.06.2017 from Mrs. P. Konara of No. 14, Sriyagama, Moragolla, Kandy;
 - (iv) a petition dated 10.06.2017 from Mr. T.G. Simon of No. 17/2, 6th Post, Ambagahapelessa; and
 - (v) a petition dated 20.06.2017 from Mr. W.M.W.G.Y.T. Wasala Bandara of Wasala, Poddalgoda, Udispaththuwa.
- (5) Hon. Bimal Rathnayake presented a petition dated 21.06.2017 from Mr. S. Sudath Jayaweera of Human Resources Unit, Ceylon Electricity Board, Kuliypitiya.
- (6) Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare presented a petition dated 25.05.2017 from Mr. H.M. Gunawardhana of No. 254, Hulangamuwa Road, Matale.
- (7) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
- (i) a petition dated 30.06.2017 from Mrs. J.P.P. Manohari of No. 62/25/A, Sapumal Mawatha, Alaswaththa, Thelijawila, Kirimetimulla;
 - (ii) a petition dated 07.06.2017 from Mrs. L.K. Iresha Chandani of Bogahawaththa, Kanaththegoda, Kamburugamuwa; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 29.06.2017 from Mr. W. Premasiri of Aluth Gedara, Kandevihare Road, Puhulwella.
- (8) Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne presented a petition dated 02.06.2017 from Mr. Edward Ponnampere of No. 138/2, Aluthwewa, Polonnaruwa.
- (9) Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa presented a petition dated 06.06.2017 from Mr. W.K. Lakshman of No. 9/3, Rajamawatha Road, Rathmalana.
- (10) Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe presented a petition dated 05.06.2017 from Mr. H.R. Heenbanda of No. E 78/1, Puwakmote, Yatagama, Rambukkana.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order No. 25A of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

Suspension of Sitting

2.21 p.m.

The sitting was suspended until 3.09 p.m.

3.09 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

4. Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government presented,— That the Bill to amend the Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, 8th August, 2017 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

5. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2012/16 of 28th March 2017, which was presented on 20.06.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,—That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No.2012/17 of 28th March 2017, which was presented on 20.06.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 3) : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2012/52 of 31st March 2017, which was presented on 20.06.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 4) : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,—That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2018/2 of 08th May 2017, which was presented on 20.06.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 5) : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2019/21 of 19th May 2017, which was presented on 20.06.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,—That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 20.06.2017, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2006/42 of 16th February 2017)

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Nation Building Tax (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Hon. Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed an amendment to leave out lines 14 to 18 in page 2 and substitute the following:-

“(c) in item (xviA) thereof by the substitution for the words ‘Air Lanka Catering Services Ltd;’ of the following words and figures :-

“Air Lanka Catering Services Ltd, for any period prior to August 1, 2017;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out lines 22 and 23 in page 2 and substitute the following:-

“any article imported or sold prior to August 1, 2017;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out line 8 in page 3 and substitute the following:-

“supply of electricity ;”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out line 16 in page 3 and substitute the following:-

“1969;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out line 24 in page 3 and substitute the following:-

“prior to August 1, 2017, of a”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out line 27 in page 3 and substitute the following:-

“ (c) on or after August 1, 2017, of a”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out line 10 in page 4 and substitute the following:-

“(a) prior to August 1, 2017;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out line 11 in page 4 and substitute the following:-

“ (b) on or after August 1, 2017, where”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out line 30 in page 4 and substitute the following:-

“provided prior to August 1, 2017 by any”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media proposed another amendment to leave out line 4 in page 5 and substitute the following:-

“August 1, 2017, the business of”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 3 and 4 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media moved,— That the Bill, as amended be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

12. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly at 3.35 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 27 July, 2017 pursuant to the Resolutions of Parliament of 07 July, 2017.