



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 187.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, August 09, 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. (Mrs.) Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Foreign Employment

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. 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. Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture

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. A. D. Susil Premajyantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research

- Hon. Sajith Premadasa**, Minister of Housing and Construction
- 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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa**, Minister of Disaster Management
- Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka**, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development
- Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga**, Minister of Petroleum Resources Development
- Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka**, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development
- 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. W. D. J. Senewiratne**, Ministry of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Sabaragamu Development
- Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa**, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management
- Hon. D. M. Swaminathan**, Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs
- Hon. Rauff Hakeem**, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply
- Hon. Abdul Haleem**, Minister of Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs
- Hon. Kabir Hashim**, Minister of Public Enterprise Development
- Hon. P. Harrison**, Minister of Rural Economic Affairs
- 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. Niroshan Perera**, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs
- Hon. A. D. Premadasa**, State Minister of Industry and Commerce Affairs
- Hon. Palitha Range Bandara**, State Minister of Irrigation
- Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran**, State Minister of Child Affairs
- Hon. V. S. Radhakrishnan**, State Minister of Education
- Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**, State Minister of Finance

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. 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. Faizal Cassim, Deputy Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Dunesh Gankanda, Deputy Minister of Disaster Management

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources
Development

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. Ajith P. Perera, Deputy Minister of Power and Renewable Energy

Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. Arundika Fernando, Deputy Minister of Tourism Development and Christian
Religious Affairs

Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka, Deputy Minister of Telecommunication and Digital
Infrastructure

Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage, Deputy Minister of Ports and Shipping Affairs

Hon. Duleep Wijesekera, Deputy Minister of Post, Postal Services and Muslim
Religious Affairs

Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen, Deputy Minister of Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. H. M. M. Harees, Deputy Minister of Sports

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Ananda 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. Malith Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. Arumugan Thondaman
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
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. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara

Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. M. H. M. Salman
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha 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. Announcement by the Speaker : Speaker made the following announcement:-

“ I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled ‘Nation Building Tax (Amendment)’ on 09th of August 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) Speaker presented the Final Draft of the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.

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

(2) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Supplementary Estimate No. 1 of 2017 and moved that this supplementary Estimate be referred to the Committee on Public Finance and Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) 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 Social Sciences and Humanities of Rajarata University and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2025/38 of 30th June 2017; and
- (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 a Department of English Language Teaching in the Faculty of Arts of University of Colombo and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2025/39 of 30th 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;

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Nuwara Eliya 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;

(5) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Museums for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage.

Question put, and agreed to;

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Food Commissioner's Department for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to;

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

Question put, and agreed to;

(8) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Lankaputhra Development Bank for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to;

(9) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Police for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to;

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Lucky Jayawardana, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment presented the Report of the said Committee on,—

- (i) Annual Reports of the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka for the years 2012 and 2013;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Institute for Construction Training and Development for the year 2013;
- (iii) Annual Reports of the National Housing Development Authority for the years 2012 and 2013;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Condominium Management Authority for the year 2012;
- (v) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Buildings for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014;
- (vi) Performance Reports of the Department of Government Factory - Kolonnawa for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015; and
- (vii) Annual Report of the State Development & Construction Corporation for the year 2012

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. K.K. Piyadasa, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce presented the Report of the said Committee on,—

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2013"; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Consumer Affairs Authority for the year 2014

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations presented the Report of the said Committee on,—

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Employment for the year 2016; and
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for the year 2014

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(4) Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on,—

- (i) Revision of Salaries and Allowances to the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka; and
- (ii) Annual Report of Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2016

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 14.05.2017 from Mr. C.R.B. Manawadu of Gallewaththa, Old Road, Galahitiya, Katharagama;
 - (ii) a petition dated 11.07.2017 from Mr. K.V.A. Sunil of No. 73, “Meth Sevana”, Mayurapura, Hambanthota; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 19.06.2017 from Mr. P.M.P. Kumara of No. 49/9, Samagi Mawatha, Galgane Road, Devinuwara.
- (2) Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 05.04.2017 from Mr. J.D. Chandrakumara Jayasekara of “Suhada”, Kumme, Baddegama; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 30.01.2017 from Mr. R.S. Liyanage Serving in Range Forest Office, Lower Dickson Road, Galle.

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

5. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Velu Kumar seconded by Hon. M.H.M. Salman presented,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Aravind Kumar Foundation.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time, and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order No. 47(5) of the Parliament to the Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage for Report.

6. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda seconded by Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe presented,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the K.K. Piyadasa Foundation.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time, and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order No. 47(5) of the Parliament to the Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage for Report.

(At 2.39 p.m. the Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

7. Regulations under the Marine Pollution Prevention Act : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs moved,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment under Section 51 of the Marine Pollution Prevention Act, No. 35 of 2008 read with paragraph (e) of Section 6 and Section 21 of the said Act and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1996/27 of 06th December 2016, which were presented on 07.06.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and State Minister of Mahaweli Development moved,—That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.10 p.m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

8. Revision of Salaries and Allowances to the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs moved,— Whereas, provision has been made in terms of Article 41(b) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Sections 3 and 3(4) of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 21 of 1996, the President has appointed Dr. (Mrs.) Nelum Deepika Udagama, the Head of Department of Law Faculty of University of Peradeniya, who has a vast knowledge and practical experiences in the field of Human Rights to her credit, as the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka for a period of three (03) years with effect from 30.10.2015.

And whereas, Dr. (Mrs.) Nelum Deepika Udugama who has been serving as the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka since 30.10.2015, intends to revert back to her substantive post after the lapse of said period of three (03) years and she has intimated that in case the salary including all allowances of her substantive post in the University is denied to her during this period of three (03) years, it would adversely affect her employment benefits.

And whereas, Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval on 13.06.2017 to pay Dr. (Mrs.) Nelum Deepika Udagama the salary of fulltime Lecturer including all allowances as the Head of Department of Law Faculty of University of Peradeniya with effect from 30.10.2015; to pay her the monthly telephone allowance of Rs. 10,000/- entitled to the Chairperson of the Commission and to provide her with an official vehicle with entitlement for personal use including 225 liters of fuel or an allowance corresponding to the current market prices of fuel, as personal to her.

Accordingly, that this Parliament resolves that Dr. (Mrs.) Nelum Deepika Udagama, the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka be paid the aforesaid monthly salary and allowances to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of the Government in terms of Section 8 of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 21 of 1996.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,—That Hon. Lucky Jayawardana do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.37 p.m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardana took the Chair.)

9. Adjournment (Bring Kinniya and Muttur Base Hospitals under Central Government Control) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,—That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 6.34 p.m. adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 10th August, 2017 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 08.03.2016.