(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 238.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, February 19, 2018 at 10.00 a.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 and Minister of Justice Hon. Wajira Abeywardana, Minister of Home Affairs Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs 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. Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Dialogue Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and **Community Development** Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries Hon. S. B. Nawinne, Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and Minister of Buddhasasana 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 and Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 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. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development
- 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. (Dr.) Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine
- 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. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture

- Hon. T. B. Ekanayake, State Minister of Lands
- Hon. Piyasena Gamage, State Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development
- Hon. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic 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. Ruwan Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence
- Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
- 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. 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. 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. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife
- Hon. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs
- Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva, Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs
- Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Deputy Minister of Foreign Employment
- 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. Indika Bandaranayake, Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction
- Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage, Deputy Minister of Ports and Shipping Affairs
- Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage
- 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. Ravi Karunanayake

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. Siripala Gamalath

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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana

Hon. Lucky Jayawardana

Hon. Premalal Jayasekara

Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah

Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam

Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon

Hon. Arumugan Thondaman

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek

Hon. Sirinal de Mel

Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva

Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka

Hon. Salinda Dissanayake

Hon. Douglas Devananda

Hon. Mohamed Navavi

Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana

Hon. K. K. Piyadasa

Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera

Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera

Hon. Arundika Fernando

Hon. Johnston Fernando

Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra

Hon. S. Premarathna

Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda

Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor

Hon. S. M. Marikkar

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana

Hon. Imran Maharoof

Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe

Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana

Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake

Hon. Lohan Ratwatte

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga

Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella

Hon. Ishak Rahuman

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa

Hon. Nimal Lanza

Hon. Gamini Lokuge

Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka

Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne

Hon. A. A. Wijethunga

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri

Hon. Duleep Wijesekera

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara

Hon. Heshan Withanage

Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa

Hon. Kumara Welgama

Hon. S. Shritharan

Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe

Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. E. Saravanapavan

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan

Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan

Hon. Muthu Sivalingam

Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe

Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath

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 (Regulation of Foreign Fishing Boats) (Amendment)" on 08th February 2018, 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 Speaker presented the Second Instalment – Part XI and Eighth Instalment – Part II of the Report of the Auditor–General for the Financial Year 2016 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said report do lie upon the table and to be printed.

(2) The Speaker presented —

- (i) The Performance Report of the Finance Commission, from 01.10.2017 to 31.12.2017, in terms of Article 41B (6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and
- (ii) The Performance Report of the Audit Service Commission, from 01.07.2017 to 30.09.2017, in terms of Articles 41B(6) and 153H of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said reports do lie upon the table.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented Regulations made by the Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs under Section 29 read with Section 7 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2045/56 of 17th November 2017 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Public Service Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka 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 Report of the Finance Commission for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Reports of the National Police Commission for the years 2014 and 2015 and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and Minister of Buddhasasana presented the Annual Performance Report of Department of National Zoological Gardens 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.

(8) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the National Council for Elders for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Finance and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Lady Lochore Loan Fund for the year 2016;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board for the year 2016;
- (iii) Notification made by the Minister of Finance and Mass Media, under Sections 2, 12, 22 and 25 read with Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) relating to Excise Duty on import of non-potable spirits and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2050/11 of 19th December 2017 (Excise Notification No. 1005); and
- (iv) Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.01.2018 to 22.01.2018 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 30 of 2017

and moved that these Reports, Notification and Note on Supplementary Allocations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) 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 establishment of a Department of English Language Teaching in the Faculty of Business Studies, Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2050/7 of 18th December 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 Business Studies and Finance of the Wayamba University and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2050/36 of 21st December 2017.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies for the year 2015 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
 - (i) Annual Reports of the Lanka Sathosa Limited for the years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; and
 - (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Cooperative Development for the year 2016.

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(13) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation for the year 2013 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.

(14) The Minister of Plantation Industries presented the Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(15) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Electricity Board for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

- (16) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the
 - (i) Performance Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 2016; and
 - (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Agrarian Development for the year 2015

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(17) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, the Chairman of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on,

- (i) Excise (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Notes on the Supplementary Allocations given from the Budgetary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities provision made under the Department of National Budget as per the Introduction Note of the Annual Estimates;
- (iii) Financial Performance of the Third Quarter of 2017;
- (iv) Regulations under the Finance Act;
- (v) Resolution for Revision of Remuneration of the Chairman & the Vice Chairman and the Allowances of the Members of the National Education Commission; and
- (vi) Resolution for Determination of Salaries and allowances to Mr. H.M. Gamini Wijesinghe, the Auditor General

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

(2) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-Corruption) and Media presented the Report of the said Committee on "Media Guidelines under Article 104B(5)(a) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka" which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

4. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented
 - a petition dated 16.10.2017 from Mrs. D.J.M. Kusumawathie of No. 34/D, Newcity, Rerukana Road, Widaagama, Bandaragama;
 - (ii) a petition dated 10.10.2017 from Mr. Galoluwa Arachchige Somasiri of No. 43A, Rasakawatta, Mahagoda, Hamburagala, Bentota;
 - (iii) a petition dated 06.11.2017 from Mr. H.C.M. Amarathunga of No. 768, Galle Road, Molligoda, Wadduwa;
 - (iv) a petition dated 11.11.2017 from Mr. M. Premarathne of Sapumal Uyana, Atakohotta, Nawadagala;
 - (v) a petition dated 10.12.2017 from Mrs. M.I.S. Fernando of No. 24 C, Dibbedda, Panadura; and
 - (vi) a petition dated 22.11.2017 from Mrs. M.K. Fernando of No. 3A, Morawinna Road, Kaludewala, Panadura.
- (2) Hon. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma presented a petition dated 08.11.2017 from Mrs. Chandani Weththasinghe of Pahala Naaragala, Gowinna.

(3) Hon. Vijitha Herath presented a petition dated 07.11.2017 from Mr. I.K. Sisira Wijerathne of No. 55, Palmada, Meerigama.

(11)

- (4) Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara presented
 - (i) a petition dated 10.10.2017 from Mr. Nimal Weerakkody of No. 49/2B, 2nd Lane, Koralawella, Moratuwa; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 19.12.2017 from Mr. T.A.G. Thangalla of No. 4/10, Dedurunadeegama, Ambakote.
- (5) Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare presented
 - (i) a petition dated 15.08.2017 from Ms. Mallika Fernando of No.01, Kahatagahakumbura, Raithalawala, Ukuwela; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 16.10.2017 from Mrs. W.G.G. Indra Kumarihamy of No. 101, Udangamuwa, Laliabe, Matale.
- (6) Hon. Kanaka Herath presented a petition dated 24.09.2017 from Mrs. G.K. Suneetha Nalani of Teachers' Quarters, Manadi Primari School of, Mawanella, Kegalle, Aranayake.
- (7) Hon. Imran Maharoof presented a petition dated 05.07.2017 from Mr. S.M Moujood of Nandutheevu, Mutur 07.
- (8) Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna presented a petition dated 04.11.2017 from Mr. M.M.M. Jemal of No. 345/3, Thalduwa, Avissawella.

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

5. Active Liability Management : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs moved,— Bill to authorize the raising of loans in or outside Sri Lanka for the purpose of Active Liability Management to improve public debt management in Sri Lanka and to make provisions for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, March 06, 2018 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

6. Demutualization of the Colombo Stock Exchange : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs moved,— Bill to provide for the demutualization of the Colombo Stock Exchange by the conversion of the Colombo Stock Exchange which is a company limited by guarantee, to a company limited by shares; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, March 06, 2018 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

Suspension of Sitting

10.20 a.m.

The sitting was suspended until 10.44 a.m.

10.44 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

7. Revised Draft Standing Orders of Parliament : The Report of the Committee on Standing Orders in relation to the revised Draft of the Standing Orders of Parliament presented on Tuesday, November 07, 2017, — Consideration.

(At 1.30 p.m. the Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 2.13 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.52 p.m. the Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That this Consideration be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

The debate stood adjourned; debate to be continued on a future date.

8. Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament: The final draft of the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament relating to their conduct which was presented on Tuesday, November 07, 2017, be approved.

The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That this debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

The debate stood adjourned; debate to be continued on a future date.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.59 p.m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardana took the Chair.)

9. Adjournment (Political Crisis Arisen in Sri Lanka) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 4.30 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 6.23 p.m. adjourned until 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.