



(Eighth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 10.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, June 06, 2018 at 1.00 p.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan, Deputy Chairperson 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. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Science, Technology, Research, Skills Development & Vocational Training and Kandyan Heritage

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

Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Buddhasasana

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Minister of Public Administration & Management and Law & Order

Hon. (Mrs.) Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Youth Affairs, Project Management and Southern Development

Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Ports and Shipping

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply

Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Highways & Road Development

Hon. P. Harrison, Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Piyasena Gamage, State Minister of Youth Affairs, Project Management and Southern Development

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake, State Minister of Mahaweli Development

Hon. Niroschan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. A. D. Premadasa, State Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. Palitha Range Bandara, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources & Disaster Management

Hon. V. S. Radhakrishnan, State Minister of Education

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance

Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama, State Minister of Provincial Councils, Local Government and Sports

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, State Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development and Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, State Minister of Science, Technology, Research, Skills Development & Vocational Training and Kandyan Heritage

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Finance and Mass Media

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs

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

Hon. H. R. Sarathie Dushmantha, Deputy Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, Deputy Minister of National Integration, Reconciliation and Official Languages

Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. Muthu Sivalingam, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare & Primary Industries

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Dilum Amunugama
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail
Hon. T. B. Ekanayake
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Siripala Gamalath
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thuraiatretnasingam
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake

Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharooof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
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. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Duleep Wijesekera

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. E. Saravanapavan
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Kanaka 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 : The Speaker made the following announcement:-

“ I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled “Sri Lanka Tea Board (Amendment)” on the 05th of June 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 Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of External Resources for the year 2017;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs for the year 2017; and
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of National Planning for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Legal Affairs for the year 2017;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Treasury Operations for the year 2017;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of Development Finance for the year 2017; and
- (iv) Performance Report of the Department of State Accounts for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City Development presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition of Parliament for the year 2017 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2017;
- (ii) Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat—Rartnapura for the year 2017;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat—Kalutara for the year 2017;
- (iv) Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat—Trincomalee for the year 2017; and
- (v) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat—Mannar for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports 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 Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management for the year 2017 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Galle Heritage Foundation for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce presented the Report of the said Committee on,

- (i) Performance Report of the Food Commissioner's Department for the year 2016;
- (ii) Annual Report for the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2014;
- (iii) Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department for the year 2016;
- (iv) Annual Reports of the Lanka Sathosa Limited for the years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011;
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Co-operative Development for the year 2016;
- (vi) Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Department of Commerce for the year 2016; and
- (vii) Annual Reports of the Lanka Sathosa Limited for the years 2005/2006 and 2007

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

(2) Hon. Chandima Gamage, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Annual Report of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation for the year 2015; and
- (ii) Annual Report of Ceylon Electricity Board for the year 2015

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

4. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. John Amaratunga presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 21.01.2018 from Mr. J.K. Pererapulle of No. 114/34, Awariwatte Road, Wattala; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 18.01.2018 from Mr. S.G.K.D. Tudor Anthony of No. 293/2/A, Kurukulawa, Ragama.
- (2) Hon. Gamini Lokuge presented—
 - (i) a petition dated 03.04.2018 from Mrs. D. C. A. M. Chandrakanthi of No. 05, Makandana, Madapatha; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 23.03.2018 from Mr. W.H. Publis of Begamuwa, Medawatte, Yatawara Junction, Kalutara- South.
- (3) Hon. Ravi Karunanayake presented a petition dated 22.02.2018 from Mr. N. Vimalaraj, Director, District Land Reforms Authority, Kachcheri, Batticaloa.

- (4) Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare presented —
- (i) a petition dated 19.03.2018 from Mrs. H. G. Karunathilake of No. 08, Hilton Colony, Palapathwala, Matale;
 - (ii) a petition dated 21.03.2018 from Ms. K. G. Kanthi Pushpalatha of Marukona Watta, Guralawela, Ukuwela;
 - (iii) a petition dated 20.03.2018 from Mr. P. G. Ranasinghe of No. 286/D, Kospotha, Beligamuwa, Galewela; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 21.03.2018 from Mr. R.W.M.P.G.S.R.K. Wanasinghe of Kambaragolla, Medabedda, Wasala Kotte, Galewala.
- (5) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —
- (i) a petition dated 28.03.2018 from Mr. D. R. A. Hasitha Chandimal of “Chandimal”, Diggahawatta, Thelijjawila;
 - (ii) a petition dated 28.03.2018 from Mr. G. A. R. Samaranayake of “Asiri”, Muruthamuraya, Hakmana;
 - (iii) a petition dated 29.01.2018 from Mr. H.G. Ariyadasa of “Sirini”, Boralagedara, Thalgahagoda, Palatuwa;
 - (iv) a petition dated 26.03.2018 from Mr. M. K. S. De Silva of Diwelwatta, Uluwitake, Galle;
 - (v) a petition dated 24.03.2018 from Mr. P. K. Asanka Pradeep of “Viroshadhi”, Nidan Uyana, Udukawa, Denipitiya;
 - (vi) a petition dated 07.03.2018 from Mrs. P. Sumanawathi of Udagegoda, Paraduwa, Akuressa.;
 - (vii) a petition dated 02.03.2018 from Mrs. Rani Mangalika Samarasinghe of Kongahahena, Makawita, Navimana;
 - (viii) a petition dated 26.03.2018 from Mr. U. G. A. N. Kariyawasam of Diwelwatta, Uluwitake, Galle; and
 - (ix) a petition dated 15.03.2018 from Mr. Y. S. W. Vitharana of Halmillawa, Thissamaharama.
- (6) Hon. Chandima Gamage presented —
- (i) a petition dated 09.12.2017 from Mr. H.M. Dushmantha Kumara of No. 36, Thenna, Matale;
 - (ii) a petition dated 10.03.2018 from Mr. Kosala Suranga Wimalasiri of No. 270, Deke Ela Road, Kothalawala Housing, Kaduruwela, Polonnaruwa; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 26.02.2018 from Mr. W.R. Jeewakarathne of Samadi Mawatha, Aluthwatte, Maradankadawala, Horowupathana.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order No. 30 (10) of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Sittings of the Parliament: The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That for the purpose of the proceedings of the current session, Standing Order No. 8(2) of the Parliament shall operate with substitution of the words “9.30 a.m.” for the words “10.30 a.m.”

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 2.44 p.m. the Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs moved,—That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.51 p.m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,—That Hon. Lucky Jayawardana do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.43 p.m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardana took the Chair.)

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations 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 Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clause 1

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations proposed an amendment to leave out lines 3 to 5 (both inclusive) in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“Short title “1. This Act may be cited as the Shop and Office
Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration)
(Amendment) Act, No. of 2018.”

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.

Clauses 2 and 3 were agreed to.

New Clause

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 1 in page 2 :—

“Provision of nursing intervals for nursing mothers 18I. The Employer of a female employee in any shop or office shall, if she is nursing a child under one year of age, allow her, in any period of nine hours, two nursing intervals at such times as she may require. Each interval shall, where creche or other suitable place is provided by such employer to such female employee for nursing such child, be not less than thirty minutes, and where no crèche or other suitable place is so provided, be not less than one hour, and shall be in addition to any interval provided to such female employee for meals or rest under any written law and be regarded, for the purposes of her employment, as time during which she has worked in her employment.”.

Question that the Clause be read a second time, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause, be added to the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Title

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations proposed the following amendment :—

“This Act may be cited as the Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) (Amendment) Act. “

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

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

Enacting Clause

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

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations 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.

7. Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations 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 Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 9 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 without Amendments.

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations moved,— That the Bill, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

8. Adjournment (Strengthening of Dhamma School Education) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

The Minister of Buddhasasana moved,—That Hon. Heshan Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.55 p.m. Hon. Heshan Withanage took the Chair.)

And it being 7.32 p.m. the Presiding Member adjourned the Parliament without question put.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, June 07, 2018 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on this day.