



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 41.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Friday, July 26, 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

595/2024

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of —
- (i) the number of Members of Parliament, former Members of Provincial Councils, Members of Local Government and other persons, separately, whose homes, properties and offices have been damaged or destroyed during the unrest that occurred in Sri Lanka on or around 9th May 2022;
 - (ii) the value of the damage or loss caused to assets of each such Member/person separately and the total value of the damage or loss so caused;
 - (iii) the government/public properties which were damaged or destroyed during the unrest concerned;
 - (iv) the value of damage or loss caused to each of such government/public property separately; and
 - (v) the total value of the damage or loss caused to government/public properties?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

612/2024

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,— (3)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) of the number of public corporations, authorities, boards and other production and service institutions owned by the Government of Sri Lanka by the year 1978;
 - (ii) of the name of each such institution along with the product manufactured/service provided separately;

(2)

- (iii) of the number of institutions currently functioning out of those mentioned in (i) above; and
 - (iv) separately of the percentage of government ownership of each of the aforesaid institutions;
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
- (i) of the number of institutions that have been privatized out of the production/service establishments referred to in (a)(i) above;
 - (ii) separately of the name of each such institution and the product manufactured/service provided;
 - (iii) of the institutions that have gone bankrupt out of those mentioned in (a)(i) above; and
 - (iv) of the names of such bankrupt institutions ?
- (c) If not, why?

3.

639/2024

Hon. B.Y.G Rathnasakara,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) of the total Coconut production of Sri Lanka in 2023 in relation to each province, separately; and
 - (ii) the manner of fluctuation of the total Coconut production in 2023 as against 2022 ?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
- (i) of the total Tea production of Sri Lanka in 2023;
 - (ii) the income earned from the exportation of Tea in that year; and
 - (iii) the number of researches conducted by the research institutions established for plantation crops including the Tea Research Institution and Coconut Research Institution in 2023; and
 - (iv) the main findings of such research?
- (c) If not, why?

4.

1090/2024

Hon. Samanpriya Herath,—To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) of the number of registered leasing companies in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) whether legal actions have been taken against the leasing companies that have not been registered properly;

(3)

- (iii) whether he is aware that different interest rates charged by those leasing companies have caused severe inconvenience on the parties who have signed agreements with them;
- (iv) whether a proper mechanism has been executed to regulate the interest rates charged by the said companies; and
- (v) of the methodology adopted to safeguard the customers who have obtained leasing facilities ?

(b) If not, why?

5.

1129/2024

Hon. D. Weerasingha,— To ask the Minister of Tourism and Lands,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House separately of the —

- (i) extent of land owned by the Land Reform Commission in Ampara district;
- (ii) extent of land distributed among the public out of the aforesaid lands;
- (iii) extent of land where deeds have been handed over out of the aforesaid lands; and
- (iv) extent of land, deeds are to be handed over in the future; according to each divisional secretariat division?

(b) If not, why?

6.

1156/2024

Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Transport and Highways,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) whether passenger transportation can be carried out using the vehicles that are only permitted to transport goods;
- (ii) whether he is aware that passenger transportation is being carried out using the aforesaid vehicles;
- (iii) of the legitimate authority granted for passenger transportation in aforesaid vehicles;
- (iv) whether he is aware that the number of fatalities resulting from accidents involving passenger transportation vehicles operating unsafely is on the rise; and
- (v) if so, of the measures that will be taken regarding the matter?

(b) If not, why?

(4)

7.

1246/2024

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,—(3)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) progress of the Presidential Commission appointed to probe into the allegations levelled by 'Channel 4' on Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka in 2019,—
 - (ii) date when the report of the above Commission will be made available to this House and the public; and
 - (iii) reasons if there is no progress in the investigation?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) of the reasons for the appointment of a Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into the same allegations levelled by 'Channel 4' regarding the aforesaid attacks;
 - (ii) of the progress of the above Committee;
 - (iii) if there is no progress, the reasons; and
 - (iv) of the parameters of the above Committee?
- (c) Will he further inform this House of the reasons the government has repeatedly ignored calls for an independent international inquiry on the said attacks?
- (d) If not, why?

8.

1254/2024

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) whether it is known that explosives were found on a plot of land in Vanathavilluwa, Puttalam prior to the Easter Sunday attack which took place in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) of the names and designations of the police officers who conducted the related investigations;
 - (iii) whether it is admitted that the investigations were not carried out consistently;
 - (iv) of the information related to the above investigations, stipulated in the Report of the Presidential Commission appointed to investigate on the Easter Sunday attack;

(5)

- (v) whether it is accepted that the Easter Sunday attack could have been prevented if the above investigations had been carried out properly; and
 - (vi) of the measures that will be taken to strictly enforce the law against the accused arrested in connection with the Easter Sunday attack?
- (b) If not, why?

9.

1288/2024

Hon. Kins Nelson,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) of the number of government schools in the Polonnaruwa district;
 - (ii) the names of those schools;
 - (iii) of those schools, the number of schools that offer subjects in the Technical stream at present;
 - (iv) the names of those schools; and
 - (v) the steps that would be taken to popularize the Technical stream among the students of the Polonnaruwa district?
- (b) If not, why?

10.

2005/2024

Hon. S. M. Marikkar, — To ask the Minister of Health,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House, separately, of the amount —
- (i) due to the pharmaceutical suppliers of Sri Lanka from the State Pharmaceutical Corporation by 31.01.2024, according to each pharmaceutical supplier; and
 - (ii) due to the Indian pharmaceutical suppliers by 31.01.2024 for the medicine imported to Sri Lanka under the Indian credit facility, according to each pharmaceutical supplier?
- (b) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Motions

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Sittings of the Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Votes of Condolence

- (i) The late Hon. A.H.M. Alawi, Ex - Member of Parliament.
- (ii) The late Hon. M.N. Abdul Majeed, Ex - Member of Parliament.
- (iii) The late Hon. Palitha Thewarapperuma, Ex - Member of Parliament.
- (iv) The late Hon. Milroy Fernando, Ex - Member of Parliament.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

- *1.
Animal Welfare Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *2.
Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *3.
Anti Terrorism Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *4.
Gender Equality Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *5.
Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements
Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *6.
Immigration Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *7.
Medical (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *8.
Medical (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)
- *9.
Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)

(7)

*10.

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) 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.)

*11.

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. 2324/45 of 24th March 2023, which were presented on 25.04.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*12.

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. 2296/30 of 09th September 2022, which were presented on 06.10.2022, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*13.

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.)

*14.

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;

(9)

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;

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.

*15.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Notification under the Excise Ordinance,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 32 read with Section 25 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2366/39 of 12th January 2024, which was presented on 12.07.2024, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 02/2024).

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*16.

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.)

*17.

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.

*18.

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.)

*19.

The Tourism and Lands and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs,— 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.

20.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Consideration.

21.

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

22.

Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

23.

Roshan Ranasinghe Janasahana Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

24.

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

25.

Institute of Sport for Peace, Education, Empowerment and Development (SPEED) (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

26.

Public Health Emergency Bill — Second Reading.

27.

Sri Lanka Insurance Institute (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

28.

Marriages (General) (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

29.

Muslim Marriage and Divorce (Repeal) Bill — Second Reading.

30.

Plastics and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

31.

Marriage Registration (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

32.

Minimum Age of Marriage Bill — Second Reading.

33.

Community Association of Professionals (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

34.

Arundika Fernando Relief Services and Godfrey Fernando Memorial Foundation (Incorporation) Bill— Second Reading.

35.

Hector Appuhamy Helping Hand Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

36.

Janaraja Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

37.

Vanni Mann Charity Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

* *Indicates Government Business.*
