



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 69.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne, Speaker

Hon. (Dr.) Rizvie Salih, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. (Mrs.) Hemali Weerasekara, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

Hon. (Prof.) A.H.M.H. Abayarathna, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. (Prof.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing

Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Hon. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

Hon. (Dr.) Anil Jayantha, Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development

Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law, Minister of Justice and National Integration

Hon. (Dr.) Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment

Hon. (Dr.) Upali Pannilage, Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

Hon. (Mrs.) Saroja Savithri Paulraj, Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Ananda Wijepala, Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. K.V. Samantha Viddyaratna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

Hon. Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

Hon. Namal Karunaratne, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

Hon. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways

Hon. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment

Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour

Hon. Gamagedara Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

Hon. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of National Integration

Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation

Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing

Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. P. Ruwan Senarath, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education

Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
Hon. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. Arkam Ilyas
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Nishantha Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena

Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman

Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Muhammad Faizal
Hon. Riyas Farook

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled ‘Budgetary Relief Allowance of Workers (Amendment), Budgetary Relief Allowance of Workers (Amendment) and National Minimum Wage of Workers (Amendment)’ on 23rd of July 2025 in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of a Petition filed at the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘National Audit (Amendment)’.”

III

“I wish to inform this House of the further action to be taken in relation to the report of the Committee of Inquiry appointed in terms of Section 5 of the Removal of Officers (Procedure) Act, No. 5 of 2002 to investigate and report its findings on the alleged misconduct and/or gross abuse of powers of his office committed by Mr. T. M. W. Deshabandu Tennakoon, Inspector General of Police (IGP), in terms of Sections 3 (d) and 3(e) of the said Act tabled on 22nd July 2025.

Accordingly, the soft copy of this report, which was tabled on 22nd July 2025 in English, has been uploaded on the official website of Parliament on that day itself.

Further, in accordance with the permission granted by this House on 22nd July 2025, this report will be printed and distributed for the reference of the Members of this August House.

As per this report, since Mr. T. M. W. Deshabandu Tennakoon, IGP, has been found guilty, a resolution to remove him from office in terms of Section 17 of the Removal of Officers (Procedure) Act, No. 5 of 2002 will be placed on the Order Book of Parliament.

In terms of Standing Order 27 of Parliament, this resolution will be placed on the Order Paper of Parliament after five clear days from its inclusion in the Order Book of Parliament and it will be debated on a date to be determined by the Committee on Parliamentary Business.

If a majority of the total Members of Parliament (including those not present) vote in favour of this resolution, the Hon. President will be informed regarding the removal of the said Mr. T. M. W. Deshabandu Tennakoon from office forthwith in terms of Section 18 of the said Act.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Lady Lochore Loan Fund for the year 2023;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board for the year 2023; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Inland Revenue Department for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2441/14 of 18th June 2025 and moved that this Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition of Parliament for the year 2024 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Land Use Policy Planning Department for the year 2024;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Survey Department for the year 2024;
- (iv) Performance Report of the Land Title Settlement Department for the year 2024; and
- (v) Annual Performance Report of the Land Commissioner General's Department for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Food Commissioner's Department for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of the Registrar of Companies for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Labour for the year 2024 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Justice and National Integration for the year 2024 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Report of the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe presented a petition dated 15.03.2025 from Mr. P. T. Jayawardhana and one other of No 50/5, Angampitiya Road, Ethul Kotte, Kotte.
- (2) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 31.03.2025 from Mr. A. G. P. Indradewa of No. 66/1, Annapitiya Road, Tangalle;
 - (ii) A petition dated 28.03.2025 from Mrs. A. J. Piyumi Nimasha of 'Hansi', Moola Kepu Pathana, Punchi Palama, Thissamaharama;
 - (iii) A petition dated 28.02.2025 from Mrs. S.A. Dayawathi of Palugahagodella, Ambalanthota; and
 - (iv) A petition dated 21.02.2025 from Mr. W. G. M. M. N. Lakshitha of No. 79/B, 'Chathu Villa', Wetiya, Barawakumbuka.
- (3) Hon. Waruna Liyanage presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 19.03.2025 from Mrs. Haththella Widanelage Rohini of Kurugammodara, Dodampe, Ratnapura;
 - (ii) A petition dated 01.06.2025 from Ven. Kalukodayawe Dhammarathana Thero of Jayamini Bodhiya, Ihala Hakamuwa, Rathnapura; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 04.07.2025 from Mrs. M.D. Nilanthi of No. 282/21C, Kalukale, Theppanawa, Kuruwita.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order 30(10) of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

(At 11.22 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

4. Leave to introduce Bill: Hon. Waruna Liyanage, seconded by Hon. Mujibur Rahman moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Kodhagoda Gunarathana Nahimi Foundation.”

Question put, and agreed to.

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

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment .

5. Companies (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,—That Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.03 p.m. Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.09 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development 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 3 were agreed to.

Clause 4

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed an amendment to leave out lines 13 to 16 (both inclusive), in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“(2) in sub-paragraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subsection(4) thereof, by the substitution for the words “shares issued;”, of the words “shares issued and names of the persons to whom such shares are issued;”;

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 5 and 6 were agreed to.

Clause 7

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 10, in page 6 and substitute the following:—

“(3) Every director or secretary of the”;

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

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed another amendment to leave out line 26, in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“**130c.** (1) A company shall appoint, in a prescribed manner, a”;

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

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 11 in page 9:—

“(3) Every company incorporated or registered under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 or any former written Law, relating to companies shall, within a period of three months from the date of operation of the Companies (Amendment) Act, No. of 2025, disclose the details of the authorized person referred to in subsection (1).”;

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

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed another amendment to leave out line 12 to 19 (both inclusive), in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“Details for public **130D.** (1) The Registrar shall make the details of the beneficial owners of a company promptly accessible to the public, whether electronically or physically. Such details shall be limited to the full names and former full names (if any), nationalities (including dual citizenship, where applicable), countries of residence, business addresses, and the nature and extent of beneficial

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

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed another amendment to leave out line 22, in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“out in subsection (1)”;

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

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 25 in page 9:—

“(2) Any member of the public who intends to obtain an authenticated copy of the details referred to in subsection (1) shall make an application to the Registrar accompanied by a fee as may be prescribed.”;

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

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed another amendment to leave out line 7, in page 11 and substitute the following:—

“for a period not exceeding ten years or to both”;

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

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed another amendment to leave out line 20, in page 12 and substitute the following:—

“verify , report, record and notify the Registrar”;

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 8 to 13 were agreed to.

Clause 14

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 2, in page 17 and substitute the following:—

“act as Additional Registrars-General 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.

Clauses 15 to 18 were agreed to.

Clause 19

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 19, in page 20 and substitute the following:—

“to a fine not exceeding one million”; and

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 20

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development proposed an amendment to leave out lines 21 and 22, in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“other than the shares of the company, to or for”

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 20 to 22 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 Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development 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.

6. Adjournment: The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2025.