



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 70.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, July 24, 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

Honourable Anura Kumara Dissanayake, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation
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. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of National Integration
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. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy
Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development
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. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama
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. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
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. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lasith Bhashana 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. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. 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. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
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 Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. 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. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
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

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

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

“A motion may be moved to refer the Question of Privilege raised by the Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, M.P., in Parliament on 08th April 2025 to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education (Volume I - General Education, Volume II - Higher Education and Volume III - Vocational Education) for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Reports on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education and the institutions coming under its purview in the reports of the Committee on Public Accounts which were presented to Parliament and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Judges of the Superior Court — Head 04 for the year 2024; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of the Civil Security for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Development Activities Programme appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.06.2025 to 30.06.2025 in terms of Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 3 of 2025.

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

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

- (i) Annual Report of the BCC Lanka Ltd for the year 2021/2022; and
- (ii) Annual Reports and Accounts of the National Salt Limited for the year 2021/2022 and 2022/2023

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Energy presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Debt Conciliation Board 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 Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs presented the Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Police 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security & Cooperative Development presented the Report of the Committee on Regulations made by the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development under Section 84 read with Sections 64, 65, 66, 69 and 70 and section 45(5) of Anti- Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act, No. 2 of 2018 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2429/32 of 27th March 2025 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the Regulations under Section 84 read with Sections 64, 65, 66, 69 and 70 and section 45(5) of Anti – Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act, No. 2 of 2018 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera, the Chair of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the Third Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the First Session of the Tenth Parliament.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Ajith Agalakada presented —

(i) A petition dated 18.05.2025 from Mr. D. M. Punchi Banda of Ampara Road, 6th Post, Kanda Uda Panguwa, Monaragala; and

(ii) A petition dated 10.05.2025 from Mrs. Suneetha Wijesinghe of In Front of the Temple, Sirivijayapura, Monaragala.

(2) Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne presented a petition dated 03.03.2025 from Mr. B. A. Prem Naseer of No 88/26, Sesath Housing Complex, Ihala Bomiriya, Kaduwela.

- (3) Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy presented a petition dated 09.04.2025 from Mr. M. Uthayasiri of No. 66/11, Amman Road, Kantharmadam, Jaffna.
- (4) Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law presented—
- (i) A petition dated 17.05.2025 from Mr. R. M. P. J. Perera and Mrs. J.M. Malani Hemalatha of 22 KM, Nagawila, Adigama; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 05.03.2025 from Mr. W.P.R.E. Fernando of Buildings Section, Department of Railways, Naththandiya.
- (5) Hon. Dewananda Suraweera presented —
- (i) A petition dated 24.03.2025 from Mr. E. G. Jayantha Kumara of No. 27, Railway Lane, Behind the Old Police, Maharagama;
 - (ii) A petition dated 29.04.2025 from Mr. K. Vijaya Gunawardhana of No. 201, Akarawita, Gampaha;
 - (iii) A petition dated 18.05.2025 from Mr. S. Sanath Kumarasiri Gunawardhana of No. 342, Wedamulla Place, Wedamulla, Kelaniya; and
 - (iv) A petition dated 10.03.2025 from Mr. Saman Nishantha of No 57/2, Shalawa Road, Embuldeniya, Nugegoda.

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

The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,—That Hon. Aravinda Senarath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.23 a.m. Hon. Aravinda Senarath took the Chair.)

5. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—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 11.03 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment (Proposed Educational Reforms): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 11.28 a.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Science and Technology moved,—That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.51 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development moved,—That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.59 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.02 adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, July 25, 2025.