



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 71.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, July 25, 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.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

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

Hon. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayatissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media and Chief Government Whip

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

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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

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

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. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs
Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher
Education
Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. Kins Nelson
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. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen

Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
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. 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. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law

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 announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Nishantha Jayaweera, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Committee on Public Finance by the Committee of Selection on 24 July 2025, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 130(3) of the Parliament to fill the vacancy occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma, M.P., from his Membership of Parliament.”

II

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Nishantha Jayaweera, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Committee on Ways and Means by the Committee of Selection on 24 July 2025, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 130(3) of the Parliament to fill the vacancy occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma, M.P., from his Membership of Parliament.”

III

“A motion may be moved to refer the Question of Privilege raised by the Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna, M.P., in Parliament on 09th May 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 Annual Report of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka for the year 2023 and moved that this Report 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 —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Building Research Organization for the year 2023;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Disaster Management Centre for the year 2023; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Sri Lanka Coast Guard 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.

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 2024 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports under Section 41 read with Sections 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2437/24 of 21st May 2025 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment presented the Annual Performance Report of the Rehabilitation of the Visually Handicapped Trust Fund 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.

(6) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Department of Buddhist Affairs 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Muneer Mulaffer, the Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice and National Integration under Section 61 read with Section 45 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2439/34 of 04th June 2025; and

- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice and National Integration under Section 61 read with Section 45(1A) of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2440/27 of 13th June 2025

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Aravinda Senarath, the Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the Second Report of the Committee on Public Accounts 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. Gayantha Karunathilleka presented a petition dated 07.03.2025 from Mr. H.A.K. Gunantha Dhanushka of Opathagodawatta, Uluwitike, Galle.
- (2) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented a petition dated 10.04.2025 from Mr. D. G. Sandaruwan Ranaraja of No 12/30, Election Anniversary Houses, Elahera.
- (3) Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 16.03.2025 from Mr. Wasantha Kumara Kapukotuwa of No 91/1, Keedagammulla, Gampaha.
- (4) Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 15.02.2025 from Mr. H. Suriya Senevirathna of No. 311, Augusta Watta, Kandy.
- (5) Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake presented a petition dated 18.05.2025 from Mr. W. P. Senevirathna of No. 11, Araliya Uyana, Wewa Rawuma, Kurunegala.
- (6) Hon. Nimal Palihena presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 20.05.2025 from Mr. P. A. P. Indrajith Wijekulasuriya of No. 161/11 A, Maliga Godella Road, Himbutana; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 17.05.2025 from Mrs. P. K. Saumyalatha of No. 625, Airport Road, Anuradhapura.
- (7) Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama presented a petition dated 19.05.2025 from Mr. R.A.N.D.S. Rajapaksha of No. 139/2, Magalegoda, Weyangoda.
- (8) Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera presented a petition dated 24.03.2025 from Mr. M. Karunadasa of No. 431/C, Belikele, Alubomulla.

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

(At 11.24 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

5. Privileges: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, M.P. on 08th April, 2025 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Votes of Condolence: The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved the Votes of Condolence on the late Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, late Hon. A. Pilapitiya, late Hon. W.B. Ekanayake, late Hon. Lucky Jayawardana and late Hon. (Mrs.) Malani Fonseka, ex-Members of Parliament.

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

The Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security moved,— That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.53 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.55 p.m. Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

The Presiding Member announced that the Speaker and herself associated together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of the late Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, late Hon. A. Pilapitiya, late Hon. W.B. Ekanayake, late Hon. Lucky Jayawardana and late Hon. (Mrs.) Malani Fonseka, ex-Members of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send copies of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of their bereaved families.

7. Adjournment: The Leader of the House of Parliament 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 Tuesday, August 05, 2025.