



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 73.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, August 06, 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. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

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.) Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment

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 Viddyarathna, 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. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

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

Hon. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment

Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour

Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence

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. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Muneer Mulaffer, Deputy Minister of National Integration

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

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

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. 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. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
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 Kugathan
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. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
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. (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. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
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. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
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. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil 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. 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. Jagath 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. (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 announcement:—

“I wish to announce Parliament that I have received the decision of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill titled ‘National Audit (Amendment)’ which had been challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has communicated that the petitioners of S.C. (SD) 21/2025 had withdrawn the application as they were satisfied with the amendments to be moved at the Committee Stage of the Bill.

I order that the decision of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the Third Installment – Part I of the Report of the Auditor– General for the Financial Year 2024 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute 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.

(3) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the National Gem and Jewellery Authority in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development presented the Performance Report of the Food Commissioner's Department 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.

(5) The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports presented the Annual Report of the National Youth Services Council for the year 2023 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 Report 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 Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Hector Appuhamy, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Institute of Cooperative Development for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Performance Reports of the National Intellectual Property Office for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies for the year 2023;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 2023; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for the year 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera presented --

- (i) A petition dated 07.05.2025 from Mr. D. M. R. D. S. Rajakaruna and Nine Others of No. 12/C, Samulu Niwasa, Keppetipola Road, Colombo 05; and
- (ii) A petition dated 20.04.2025 from Mr. K. Gamini Punyasiri Fernando of No 04, Saranankara Terrace, Sri Saranankara Road, Dehiwala.

(2) Hon. Arkam Ilyas presented a petition dated 26.03.2025 from Mr. I.D.D.L. Samaranayaka of National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Labugama, Thummodara.

(3) Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage presented a petition dated 05.05.2025 from Mr. T. Suraweera of No. 18, Wewahamanduwa, Matara.

(4) Hon. T.K. Jayasundara presented a petition dated 02.05.2025 from Mr. M. Wimalasena of Boralu Hena Temple Road, Gallae Gedara Watta, Pitigala.

(5) Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara presented—

- (i) A petition dated 27.01.2025 from Mr. B. H. D. H. Thilakarathna of No 153/4, Suwasewa Mawatha, Kandewatta, Maha Heenatiyangala, Kalutara - South;

- (ii) A petition dated 25.11.2024 from Mr. R. S. Wimalasiri De Silva of No. 62/19 B, 4th Lane, Bodhiyawaththa, Nagoda, Kalutara; and
- (iii) A petition dated 20.02.2025 from Mr. R.H.M. Ranasinghe of No 156, Thakshila Uyana, Munagama, Horana.
- (6) Hon. Stepni Fernando presented a petition dated 19.05.2025 from Mr. B. A. Karunathilaka of No. E 7, 'Indrajith', Nilwakka, Kegalle.
- (7) Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake presented a petition dated 10.03.2025 from Mrs. D. B. Manel Somarathna of Bomalu Watta, Meewewa, Bemmullegedara, Narammala.
- (8) Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala presented a petition dated 07.03.2025 from Mr. K.M.U.S. Jaliya Bandara and two others of Medical Records Assistant, General Hospital, Kegalle.

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

5. Leave to introduce Bill: Hon. K. Kader Masthan, seconded by Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Institute of Facilities Management Sri Lanka.”

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 Urban Development, Construction and Housing.

6. Sri Lanka Electricity (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation on behalf of the Minister of Energy moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.47 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development moved,— That Hon. Aravinda Senarath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.36 p.m. Hon. Aravinda Senarath took the Chair.)

The Minister of Energy moved,—That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.45 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.51 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 121; Noes: 25.

The following One Hundred and Forty Six (146) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 001. K.V. Samantha Viddyarathna	Yes
G 002. Sunil Handunnetti	Yes
G 004. Vijitha Herath	Yes
G 005. Nalinda Jayathissa	Yes
G 006. Bimal Rathnayake	Yes
G 007. Harini Amarasuriya	Yes
G 009. Ramalingam Chandrasekar	Yes
G 010. Wasantha Samarasinghe	Yes
G 017. Ananda Wijepala	Yes
G 018. Hiniduma Sunil Senevi	Yes
G 019. Sunil Kumara Gamage	Yes
G 020. Kumara Jayakody	Yes
G 022. Anura Karunathilaka	Yes
G 025. Nihal Abeysinghe	Yes
G 027. Wasantha Piyathissa	Yes
G 028. Gamagedara Dissanayake	Yes
G 031. Rathna Gamage	Yes
G 032. Mahinda Jayasinghe	Yes
G 033. Chathuranga Abeysinghe	Yes
G 034. Eranga Gunasekara	Yes
G 038. Prasanna Gunasena	Yes
G 039. Anton Jayakody	Yes
G 044. Susil Ranasinghe	Yes
G 045. Hansaka Wijemuni	Yes
G 046. Eranga Weeraratne	Yes
G 047. Namal Sudarshana	Yes
G 048. P. Ruwan Senarath	Yes
G 049. Madhura Senevirathna	Yes
G 050. Arun Hemachandra	Yes
G 051. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku	Yes
G 052. Aruna Jayasekera	Yes
G 057. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi	Yes

G 058. K. Ilankumaran	Yes
G 059. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha	Yes
G 060. Samanmali Gunasingha	Yes
G 061. Gayan Janaka	Yes
G 062. Ajith Agalakada	Yes
G 064. Roshan Akmeemana	Yes
G 066. L.M. Abeywickrama	Yes
G 067. M.K.M. Aslam	Yes
G 068. Kaushalya Ariyaratne	Yes
G 069. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana	Yes
G 070. Arkam Ilyas	Yes
G 071. Oshani Umanga	Yes
G 072. Krishnan Kalaichelvi	Yes
G 073. Upul Kithsiri	Yes
G 074. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara	Yes
G 075. Chaminda Lalith Kumara	Yes
G 076. Sarath Kumara	Yes
G 077. Nilanthi Kottahachchi	Yes
G 078. M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani	Yes
G 079. Lasith Bhashana Gamage	Yes
G 082. Ajantha Gammeddage	Yes
G 083. Ajith Gihan	Yes
G 084. Jagath Gunawardana	Yes
G 085. Aboobucker Athambawa	Yes
G 086. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody	Yes
G 087. Thushari Jayasingha	Yes
G 088. T.K. Jayasundara	Yes
G 089. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran	Yes
G 091. Sellaththamby Thilaganathan	Yes
G 092. Anushka Thilakarathne	Yes
G 093. Chandana Thennakoon	Yes
G 094. Thanura Dissanayake	Yes
G 095. Dharmapriya Dissanayake	Yes
G 096. Sujeewa Dissanayake	Yes
G 097. Sugath Wasantha de Silva	Yes
G 098. Susantha Dodawatta	Yes

G 099. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna	Yes
G 101. Najith Indika	Yes
G 102. Aruna Panagoda	Yes
G 103. Nimal Palihena	Yes
G 104. Nishantha Perera	Yes
G 105. Stepni Fernando	Yes
G 106. Kanthasamy Prabu	Yes
G 107. Lal Premanath	Yes
G 108. Nanda Bandara	Yes
G 109. Padmasiri Bandara	Yes
G 110. Ravindra Bandara	Yes
G 111. Sudath Balagalla	Yes
G 112. Sri Bavanandarajah	Yes
G 113. E. M. Basnayaka	Yes
G 114. Wijesiri Basnayake	Yes
G 115. Lakmali Hemachandra	Yes
G 116. S. Sandaruwan Madarasinghe	Yes
O 001. Mano Ganeshan	No
O 002. Kabir Hashim	No
O 006. R.M.Ranjith Madduma Bandara	No
O 007. Gayantha Karunathilleka	No
O 008. Sajith Premadasa	No
O 017. M.A.M. Thahir	No
O 021. Dayasiri Jayasekara	No
O 022. Harsha de Silva	No
O 023. Ajith P. Perera	No
O 024. Sujeewa Senasinghe	No
O 027. J. C. Alawathuwala	No
O 029. Hector Appuhamy	No
O 030. Hesha Withanage	No
O 031. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana	No
O 034. Imran Maharroof	No
O 041. Chaminda Wijesiri	No
O 042. Mujibur Rahman	No
O 046. W.H.M. Dharmasena	No
O 049. Chamindranee Kiriella	No

O 050. Chathura Galappaththi	No
O 051. Chithral Fernando	No
O 052. Amila Prasad	No
O 058. Abthul Wazeeth	No
O 062. Jagath Vithana	No
O 064. Nissam Kariyappar	No
O 065. Prageeth Madhuranga	Yes
O 066. Jagath Manuwarna	Yes
O 067. Ruwan Mapalagama	Yes
O 068. Nandana Millagala	Yes
O 069. Riyas Farook	Yes
O 070. Danushka Ranganath	Yes
O 071. Sanjeewa Ranasingha	Yes
O 072. Sunil Rathnasiri	Yes
O 082. A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe	Yes
O 083. Manoj Rajapaksha	Yes
O 084. Sunil Rajapaksha	Yes
O 085. Hasara Liyanage	Yes
O 086. Deepthi Wasalage	Yes
O 087. Kanchana Welipitiya	Yes
O 088. R. G. Wijerathna	Yes
O 089. Nishantha Samaraweera	Yes
O 091. Ruwan Wijeweera	Yes
O 092. Darmapriya Wijesinghe	Yes
O 093. Hiruni Wijesinghe	Yes
O 094. Athula Welandagoda	Yes
O 096. Dinindu Saman	Yes
O 097. Thilina Samarakoon	Yes
O 100. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi	Yes
O 101. G.D. Sooriyabandara	Yes
O 102. Aravinda Senarath	Yes
O 103. Kitnan Selvaraj	Yes
O 104. Janaka Senarathna	Yes
O 105. Chandima Hettiaratchi	Yes
O 106. Champika Hettiarachchi	Yes
O 107. Dinesh Hemantha	Yes

O 108. Geetha Herath	Yes
O 111. Ashoka Gunasena	Yes
O 112. Nandana Pathmakumara	Yes
O 113. Sunil Biyanwila	Yes
O 114. Samantha Ranasingha	Yes
O 115. Nishantha Jayaweera	Yes

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Energy 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 Energy proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 and 7, in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“and Long Term Transmission Development Plan have been prepared by”;

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 5

The Minister of Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 20, in page 4 and substitute the following:—

“of the words “unbundled electricity”;

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 6 and 7 were agreed to.

Clause 8

The Minister of Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 9, in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“member for a further term of three years.”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 9 in page 8:—

“(2E) The committee appointed by the Minister shall be deemed to be a scheduled institution within the meaning of the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 and the provisions of that Act shall be construed accordingly.”;

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 9 was agreed to.

Clause 10

The Minister of Energy proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 14 in page 10:—

“(2) in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of that section, by the substitution for the words “of Sri Lanka;”, of the words of Sri Lanka, ensuring continuous and reliable electricity supply;”;

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 11

The Minister of Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 2, in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“competitive Ancillary Services Market commences”;

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 12 was agreed to.

Clause 13

The Minister of Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 29, in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“(g), (h) (i) and (h) (ii) of Schedule I, incorporated”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 30 and 31, in page 14 and substitute the following:—

“items (a), (e), (f), (g) and (h) (ii) of Schedule I and the company referred to in item (i) (i) of Schedule I relating to the hydropower generation in which”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 35, in page 14 and substitute the following:—

“shares. and”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 10 (both inclusive), in page 15.

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 10 in page 18:—

“(7) The administration and management of the affairs of the company referred to in item (h)(i) of Schedule I shall be vested in a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister which shall consist of following five members: -

- (a) a representative from the Ministry of the Minister holding a post not below an Additional Secretary or an equivalent position in that Ministry;
- (b) a Deputy Secretary to the Treasury;
- (c) one person who has at least fifteen years of experience in the electricity sector corporate management;
- (d) one person who has at least fifteen years of experience in procurement;
- (e) one person who has at least fifteen years of experience in any one or more of the following fields:-
 - (i) financial management;
 - (ii) economics;
 - (iii) accounting; or
 - (iv) commercial law,

and one of whom shall be appointed as the Chairperson by the Minister.”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 16, in page 18 and substitute the following:—

“nine members:-”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 2, in page 19 and substitute the following:—

“(iv) commercial law;

- (d) four persons from employees serving in the Ceylon Electricity Board on the day preceding the appointed date and former employees of the Ceylon Electricity Board,”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 7, in page 19 and substitute the following:—

“subsections (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) including”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after line 14 in page 19:—

“(c) The Board of Directors of the companies referred to in subsections (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) and the companies referred to in items (i) (i) and (i) (ii) of Schedule I shall submit to the Minister, a general disclosure of their interests as at the date of their appointment before assuming office as a Director of the Board of Directors.

(d) Any Director of the companies referred to in subsections (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) and the companies referred to in items (i) (i) and (i) (ii) of Schedule I who has, directly or indirectly, any interest in any matter that is to be taken up before the Board of Directors shall disclose the nature of such interest to the Board of Directors and shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Board of Directors with regard to that matter.

(e) Any person other than a representative from the Ministry of the Minister or the Treasury, shall not be appointed as a member of two or more Boards of Directors of the companies referred to in items (a), (e), (f), (g), (h) (i), (i) (i) and (i) (ii) of Schedule I.”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 17, in page 19 and substitute the following:—

“(5), (6), (7) and (8), shall-”;

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 14

The Minister of Energy proposed an amendment to leave out lines 19 to 27 (both inclusive), in page 20 and substitute the following:—

“(1) in subsection (2) of that section-

(a) in paragraph (b), by the substitution for the words
“not later than two years”, of the words “not later
than one year”;

(b) in paragraph (c)-

(i) by the substitution for the words “in items
(a), (f) and (h)(ii) of Schedule I”, of the
words and figures “in items (a), (e), (f), (g)
and (h)(ii) of Schedule I”;

(ii) by the substitution for all the words from “in
terms of paragraph (b):” to the end of that
subsection, of the words “in terms of
paragraph (b).”; and”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to insert the following
immediately after line 9 in page 21:—

“(b) in sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (e) of that
subsection, by the substitution for the words

“Provident Fund obligations”, of the words

“Provident Fund and Pension Fund obligations”;”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to leave out line 16, in page
21 and substitute the following:—

“operation;”;

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

The Minister of Energy proposed another amendment to insert the following
immediately after line 16 in page 21:—

“(d) in paragraph (g) of that subsection, by the substitution
for the word and figures “section 17.”, of the word
and figures “section 17;”;

(e) by the insertion immediately after paragraph (g) of
that subsection, of the following new paragraphs: -

“(h) ensure that all officers and servants of the Generation Company referred to in item (a) of Schedule I (in this paragraph referred to as “Generation Company”) holding office in the Generation Company on the day preceding one year from the date of publishing the final transfer plan in the *Gazette* shall be-

- (i) duly identified by the Generation Company;
- (ii) notified by the Generation Company of their proposed assignation to the respective successor companies referred to in item (i) (i) of Schedule I within four months from the date of publishing the final transfer plan in the *Gazette*; and
- (iii) required to notify the Generation Company within two months of the receipt of the notice referred to in subparagraph (ii), whether they opt to be assigned to such respective successor companies referred to in item (i) (i) of Schedule I or not,

and shall with effect from the date succeeding one year from the date of publishing the final transfer plan in the *Gazette* shall be assigned to such successor companies referred to in item (i) (i) of Schedule I under the final transfer plan on terms and conditions not less favourable than those enjoyed by them on the day preceding the appointed date under the contract of employment with the Ceylon Electricity Board. Where an employee does not opt to be assigned to a successor company referred to in item (i) (i) of Schedule I under the final transfer plan, such employee shall be entitled to a voluntary retirement scheme and the terms and conditions of such scheme shall be prescribed within four months from the date of publishing the final transfer plan in the *Gazette*; and

(i) ensure that all officers and servants of the Distribution Company referred to in item (g) of Schedule I (in this paragraph referred to as “Distribution Company”) holding office in the Distribution Company on the day preceding one year from the date of publishing the final transfer plan in the *Gazette* shall be-

- (i) duly identified by the Distribution Company;
- (ii) notified by the Distribution Company of their proposed assignation to the respective successor companies referred to in item (i) (ii) of Schedule I within four months from the date of publishing the final transfer plan in the *Gazette*; and
- (iii) required to notify the Distribution Company within two months of the receipt of the notice referred to in subparagraph (ii), whether they opt to be assigned to such respective successor companies referred to in item (i) (ii) of Schedule I or not,

and shall with effect from the date succeeding one year from the date of publishing the final transfer plan in the *Gazette* shall be assigned to such successor companies referred to in item (i) (ii) of Schedule I under the final transfer plan on terms and conditions not

less favourable than those enjoyed by them on the day preceding the appointed date under the contract of employment with the Ceylon Electricity Board. Where an employee does not opt to be assigned to a successor company referred to in item (i) (ii) of Schedule I under the final transfer plan, such employee shall be entitled to a voluntary retirement scheme and the terms and conditions of such scheme shall be prescribed within four months from the date of publishing the final transfer plan in the *Gazette*.”;

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 Energy proposed an amendment to leave out line 31, in page 26 and substitute the following:—

“August 9, 2019 and its subsequent revisions and updates published in the *Gazette*.”; 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.

Clauses 20 and 21 were agreed to.

New Clauses

The Minister of Energy proposed to insert the following new Clause immediately after line 27 in page 23:—

“Amendment
of section 28 of
the principal
Enactment

17. Section 28 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1), by the substitution for the words “in the generation and distribution of electricity, and the capacity or amount of electricity so generated”, of the words “in the generation, distribution or supply of electricity and the capacity or amount of electricity so generated, distributed or supplied”;

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.

The Minister of Energy proposed to insert the following new Clause immediately after line 20 in page 26:—

“Amendment of
section 40 of the
principal Enactment

19. Section 40 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words “apply to or in relation to the provisions of this Act.”, of the words “apply to or in relation to any person or body of persons to whom the provisions of this Act shall apply.”.

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.

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 Energy 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. Order under the Tobacco Tax Act: The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 2 of the Tobacco Tax Act, No. 8 of 1999, as amended, relating to imposition of Tobacco Tax on Beedi and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2430/16 of 01st April 2025, which was presented on 11.07.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Tea (Tax and Control of Export) Act: The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation on behalf of the Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure moved,— That the Regulations made by the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tea Board under Section 15 read with Sections 7(1) and 8(2) of the Tea (Tax and Control of Export) Act, No. 16 of 1959 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2343/63 of 05th August 2023, which were presented on 11.07.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.01 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, August 07, 2025.