



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 9.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 08, 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. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

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 Jayathissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media and Chief Government Whip

Hon. (Prof.) 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. 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 Vidyarathna, 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. R.M. Jayawardhana, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour

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

Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports

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 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. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing

Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs
Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning
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. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana
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. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna 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.) Chamindrane 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. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali 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. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Kosala Nuwan 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. 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. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Mohamed Sali Naleem
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
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. 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. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
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. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
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. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Dinindu Saman
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. (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. Messages from the President: The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජනාධිපති
இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/7/IX/3/01

December 26, 2024

Hon. I.W.M. Jagath Wickramaratne
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,


Anura Kumara Disanayake
President

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජය
இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Fourth Installment – Part XXVII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020; and
- (ii) First Installment – Parts XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI and XXVII, Fourth Installment – Parts XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII and XIX, and Sixth Installment – Parts XXIII, XXIV and XXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Ayurveda for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Ayurveda Medical Council for the year 2023

and moved that these Reports be referred to the relevant Committees.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Report on the 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 Health 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.

(5) The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation presented the Annual Performance Report of the Irrigation Department for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the National Paper Company Limited for the year 2015/2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the National Housing Development Authority for the years 2020 and 2022 and moved that those Reports be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Employees' Provident Fund for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment for the year 2022

and moved that those Reports be referred to the relevant Committees.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the —

- (i) Order under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017;
- (ii) Regulations under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, No. 28 of 2005;
- (iii) Regulation under the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010; and
- (iv) Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament presented,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 to 14 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Order under the Foreign Exchange Act: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the then Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2389/08 of 18th June 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

(At 11.33 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.09 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Regulations made by the then Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 17 read with Section 11 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, No. 28 of 2005 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2382/11 of 30th April 2024, which were presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulation under the Casino Business (Regulation) Act: Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Regulation made by the then Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 4 read with Section 3 of the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010 relating to Casino Business Licensing Regulations, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2386/09 of 29th May 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act: Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Regulations made by the then Minister of Investment Promotion in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and the Condominium Management Authority established under Section 2 of the Condominium Management Authority Law, No. 10 of 1973, under Paragraph (q) of Section 71(2) read with Section 54 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 relating to Colombo Port City Management of Condominium Property and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2394/68 of 26th July 2024, which were presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment: And it being past 5.30 p.m., Parliament was at 5.36 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 09, 2025.