



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 11.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, January 10, 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. (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. (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 Vidyarthna**, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure
- Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe**, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development
- 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
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- 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. 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. (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.) 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. 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. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi

Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne

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. 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. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani

Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage

Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage

Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
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. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
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. (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. 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. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
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. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
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. (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. 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. (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. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Report on the Deviation of Headline Inflation from the Inflation Target Set Out in the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Performance Report of the Attorney General's Department for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. 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 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Votes of Condolence: The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved the Votes of Condolence on the late Hon. Kumara Welgama, late Hon. H. Nandasena, and late Hon. Tudor Gunasekera, ex-Members of Parliament.

The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,— That Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.22 a.m. Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.27 a.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha took the Chair.)

The Presiding Member announced that the Speaker and himself associated together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of the late Hon. Kumara Welgama, late Hon. H. Nandasena, and late Hon. Tudor Gunasekera, 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.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 12.25 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.