



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 12.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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

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 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. 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 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. 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. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama

Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam

Hon. Heshu 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 Kugathanan

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. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
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. K. Kader Masthan
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. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
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. 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. 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

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

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2415/56 of 19th December 2024;

- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2415/35 of 18th December 2024; and
- (iii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2416/11 of 24th December 2024

and moved that those Order and the Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education 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 Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the institutes coming under its purview 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) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Master of Science in Electronics and Communications Engineering Degree awarded by SLT Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2373/36 of 29th February 2024;
- (ii) Orders made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Science Honours in Data Science Degree awarded by Horizon College of Business and Technology (Private) Ltd and the Bachelor of Education Honours in Sports and Physical Education Degree awarded by CINEC Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2375/22 of 12th March 2024;
- (iii) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Science Honours in Data Science Degree awarded by KIU Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2379/04 of 08th April 2024;

- (iv) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Degrees awarded by Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2382/24 of 03rd May 2024;
- (v) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Master of Education in Educational Management and Leadership Degree awarded by National School of Business Management Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2383/28 of 08th May 2024;
- (vi) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Degrees awarded by International College of Business and Technology Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2383/45 of 11th May 2024;
- (vii) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Arts Honours in English Studies Degree awarded by Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (Guarantee) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2384/28 of 16th May 2024;
- (viii) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology and Communication Degree awarded by Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2384/29 of 16th May 2024;
- (ix) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree awarded by Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (Guarantee) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2388/12 of 10th June 2024;
- (x) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Degrees awarded by Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2389/23 of 20th June 2024;
- (xi) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Business Management Honours Degree awarded by The British School of Commerce (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2389/24 of 20th June 2024;
- (xii) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Degrees awarded by National School of Business Management Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2392/47 of 11th July 2024; and

- (xiii) Order made by the then Minister of Education under Section 27(1)(b) read with Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 with regard to the Bachelor of Education Honours in Early Childhood Education Degree awarded by CINEC Campus (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2403/17 of 25th September 2024.

Ordered that this Papers do lie upon the **Table**.

(4) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Annual Report of the National Crafts Council for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Entrepreneurship Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development presented the Regulations made by the then Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security, Co-operative Development, Industry and Entrepreneurship Development under Section 204 read with Sections 160A, 161B, 161C, 161D, 161E, 161F, 161G, 161I, 161K and 161L of the Intellectual Property Act, No. 36 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2407/04 of 22nd October 2024 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Environment presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Central Environmental Authority for the year 2022; and
 - (ii) Annual Report of the GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2022
- and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Performance Report of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

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 11.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Supplementary Sum,— Head 117— Programme 02: The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,— † That this Parliament resolves that, an additional sum not exceeding Rupees Thirty three thousand eight hundred seventeen million (Rs.33,817,000,000) shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or any other fund or finances possessed by the Government or any loan obtained by the Government at the discretion of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, for the services of the financial year commencing on January 01, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2024 and that, the said sum may be expended in the manner specified in the schedule hereto:—

Schedule

Head	117	- Ministry of Transport & Highways (The Ministry name specified in the Appropriation Act No. 34 of 2023 is stated)		
Programme	02	- Development Activities		
		Capital Expenditure	Rs.	<u>33,817,000,000</u>
		Total Expenditure	Rs.	<u>33,817,000,000</u>

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 15 of 2024 presented on 06th December, 2024.
Total of Supplementary Estimates Nos. 1 to 14 Rs. 234,623,000,000

Question proposed.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

4. Adjournment (Clean Sri Lanka Programme): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.39 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.51 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

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

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.