



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 14.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, January 23, 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. 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. (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 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. Sajith Premadasa**, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
- Hon. Chathuranga Abeyasinghe**, 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. Gamagedara Dissanayake**, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
- Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa**, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment
- Hon. Muneer Mulafter**, 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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

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. 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.) 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. 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. 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. G.G. Ponnambalam
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. 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. Sanjeeva 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. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
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. 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. 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 inform Parliament that, I have received copies of two petitions filed at the Supreme Court in terms of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Local Authorities Elections (Special Provisions)’.”

2. 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) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No.1 of 1969 (Published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 2384/35 dated 17.05.2024);
- (ii) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No.1 of 1969 (Published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 2413/37 dated 04.12.2024);

- (iii) Notification under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008

(Published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 2399/16 dated 26.08.2024); and

- (iv) Order under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No.18 of 2011

(Published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 2377/39 dated 28.03.2024)

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(At 11.07 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

3. 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 3.30 p.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.

4. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 1): The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the 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. 2413/37 of 04th December 2024, which were presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

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

The Minister of Science and Technology moved,— That Hon. Aravinda Senarath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.40 p.m. Hon. Aravinda Senarath took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Notification under the Strategic Development Projects Act: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Notification made by the then Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 as amended relating to Jay Jay Textiles Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2399/16 of 26th August 2024, which was presented on 03.12.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 2): 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 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. 2384/35 of 17th May 2024, which were presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy 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 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2377/39 of 28th March 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Finding Solutions for Rohingya Refugee Issue by Adhering to International Law): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m., Parliament was at 5.49 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 Friday, January 24, 2025.