



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 17.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 06, 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. 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 Jayatissa, 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. 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. (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. (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. Hector Appuhamy

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. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

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

Hon. B. Ariyawansa

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

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. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law

Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura 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. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Dharmapriya 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. 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. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
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. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
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. Thuraiirasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha

Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
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. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
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

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Acting 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: The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Commerce for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Community Water Supply for the year 2023 and moves that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development, Construction and Housing.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security & Cooperative Development presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) 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, 161H, 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
- (ii) Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department for the year 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the the Regulations 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 which were referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Anton Jayakody presented a petition dated 22.11.2024 from Mr. K.A. Kuvintos Dias Appuhamy of Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Hal Danduwana, Dankotuwa.
- (2) Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe presented a petition dated 02.12.2024 from Mr. B.A.G. Perera of No. 590/82, Sri Bodhigrama Lane, Wedamulla, Kelaniya.
- (3) Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala presented a petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mr. D.M.J. Bandara Dissanayake of No. 89, Borawewa, Sewanapitiya, Polonnaruwa.
- (4) Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 15.12.2024 from Mr. H.M.U. Herath Bandara of No. 414/1, Wedagedara Road, Thalduwa, Avissawella; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 15.12.2024 from Mr. R.A. Prasanna Samarasekara of Ihala Mora Waththa, Ruwanwella.
- (5) Hon. Aruna Panagoda presented a petition dated 24.11.2024 from Mr. Priyantha Kumarage of No. 61/02, Palagama, Polgasovita.
- (6) Hon. Stepni Fernando presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 18.12.2024 from Mr. Edward Jans of No. 80/3, Paris Perera Mawatha, Ja-Ela; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 02.12.2024 from Mr. Kolambage Samantha Roy Weerasinghe of No. 403/1, Jaya Mawatha, Polpitimukalana, Kandana.

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

4. Sitzings of the Parliament (No. 1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8(1) of the Parliament, the Parliament shall sit on Monday, 17th February 2025.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 75(4) of the Parliament, 18th Tuesday, 19th Wednesday, 20th Thursday, 21st Friday, 22nd Saturday, 24th Monday and 25th Tuesday, February, 2025 be allotted days for the consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2025).

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Sitzings of the Parliament (No. 2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of sittings on allotted days for the consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2025) from 18th Tuesday to 20th Thursday, 22nd Saturday and 24th Monday, February, 2025 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 6.00 p.m. the provisions of paragraphs (5) and (6) of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sitzings of the Parliament (No. 3): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of sittings on allotted day for the consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2025) 21st Friday, February, 2025 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 6.00 p.m. the provisions of the paragraphs (5) and (6) of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Sitzings of the Parliament (No. 4): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of sitting on allotted day for the consideration of “Appropriation” Bill (2025) on Tuesday, 25th February, 2025 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.. At 6.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Privileges: Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, seconded by Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law, M.P. on 22nd January, 2025 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Intellectual Property Act: The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,— That 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, which were presented on 21.01.2025, be approved.

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

The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports moved,— That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.18 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.14 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, February 07, 2025.