



*(Tenth Parliament - First Session)*

No. 19.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, February 14 , 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

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**Hon. (Prof.) A.H.M.H. Abayarathna**, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

**Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage**, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

**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.) 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. Sajith Premadasa**, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

**Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

**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. Anton Jayakody**, Deputy Minister of Environment

**Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe**, Deputy Minister of Labour

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

**Hon. Muneer Mulafter**, Deputy Minister of National Integration

**Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law**, Deputy Minister of Public Security and  
Parliamentary Affairs

**Hon. Eranga Weeraratne**, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

**Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana**, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs

**Hon. P. Ruwan Senarath**, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local  
Government

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**Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan**

**Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa**

**Hon. Hector Appuhamy**

**Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana**

**Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law**

**Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe**

**Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala**

**Hon. M.K.M. Aslam**

**Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi**

**Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi**

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

**Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika**

**Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe**

**Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga**

**Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka**

**Hon. Ravi Karunanayake**

**Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC**

**Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law**

**Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan**

**Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara**

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

**Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage**

**Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage**

**Hon. Ajith Gihan**

**Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha**

**Hon. Ashoka Gunasena**  
**Hon. D. V. Chanaka**  
**Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody**  
**Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha**  
**Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne**  
**Hon. T.K. Jayasundara**  
**Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. M.A.M. Thahir**  
**Hon. Chandana Thennakoon**  
**Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva**  
**Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena**  
**Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara**  
**Hon. Nishantha Perera**  
**Hon. Ajith P. Perera**  
**Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera**  
**Hon. Stepni Fernando**  
**Hon. Amila Prasad**  
**Hon. Lal Premanath**  
**Hon. Rohana Bandara**  
**Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara**  
**Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake**  
**Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga**  
**Hon. K. Kader Masthan**  
**Hon. Imran Maharoof**  
**Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama**  
**Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC**  
**Hon. Danushka Ranganath**  
**Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha**

**Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala**  
**Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran**  
**Hon. Mujibur Rahman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna**  
**Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri**  
**Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana**  
**Hon. Jagath Vithana**  
**Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan**  
**Hon. Dinindu Saman**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera**  
**Hon. Dewananda Suraweera**  
**Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi**  
**Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara**  
**Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah**  
**Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi**  
**Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law**

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

**Parliament met pursuant to the Notification of Mr. Speaker of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, under the Standing Order 16 of the Parliament.**

**The Speaker took the Chair.**

**1. Secretary-General of Parliament read the following Gazette Notification by the Speaker by which the Parliament was convened:—**



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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
EXTRAORDINARY

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**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

**NOTIFICATION BY MR. SPEAKER**

**Convening of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
on Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.**

I, Dr. Jagath Wickramaratne, Speaker of Parliament do hereby notify that in pursuance of Standing Order 16 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, I have summoned the Parliament to meet on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 at 9.30 a.m. having been requested so to do by the Hon. Prime Minister.

**DR. JAGATH WICKRAMARATNE,**  
Speaker.

Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte,  
10<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

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**2. Announcements by the Speaker:** The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to announce that I have received the determination of the Supreme Court on the Bill titled ‘Local Authorities Elections (Special Provisions)’ challenged in the Supreme Court under Article 121 (1) of the Constitution, which had been heard before a bench of three Judges.

Accordingly, two Judges constituting the majority of the bench had held that:—

The Bill read as a whole and in particularly Clauses 2 and 3 is inconsistent with Article 12(1) of the Constitution and can be only passed with the special majority required under paragraph (2) of Article 84.

The remaining Judge of the bench had held that:-

The Bill as a whole or any provision thereof is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution and may be enacted with a simple majority of Parliament.

I order that the full determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the official report of today's proceedings.”

**3. Presentation of Papers:** (1) The Speaker presented the Second Installment – Part XXXV, Third Installment – Part XVI and Ninth Installment – Part XXI 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, Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

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

- (i) Recommendations submitted to the Hon. President by the Finance Commission for the year 2025 in terms of Article 154R (4) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and
- (ii) Regulation made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 12 of the Finance Act, No. 12 of 2013 read together with the provisions of the Finance Act, No. 12 of 2012 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2411/56 of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

and moved that the Recommendations and the Regulation be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Order made by the then Minister of Education, Science and Technology under Section 27(1) read with Sections 21 and 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Public Health and Family Medicine of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2412/36 of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024; and
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 19(A) of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) as amended by the Customs (Amendment) Law No. 35 of 1974 and the Customs (Amendment) Act, No. 83 of 1988 relating to Customs Import Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/02 of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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

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

- (i) Annual Report of the National Livestock Development Board for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Agrarian Development for the year 2019

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation for the year 2018 and moved that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources.

Question put, and agreed to.

**4. 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 Appropriation Bill for the year 2025 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

**5. Business of Parliament (No. 1):** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the motions agreed to by Parliament on 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the Standing Order 111 of the Parliament shall be suspended until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Question put, and agreed to.

**6. Business of Parliament (No. 2):** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the motions agreed to by Parliament on 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the Standing Order 50(2) of the Parliament shall operate with substitution of the words "Ministerial Consultative Committee" for the words "Sectoral Oversight Committee" until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Question put, and agreed to.

**7. Business of Parliament (No. 3):** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the motions agreed to by Parliament on 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the Ministerial Consultative Committees shall have the power to examine any Bill, except the Bills defined in Article 152 of the Constitution, Treaty, Reports including the Annual and Performance Reports relating to the institutions coming under its purview or any other matter referred to the Committee by Parliament or any Committee or a Minister relating to the subjects and functions within their jurisdiction and report such matters to Parliament until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Question put, and agreed to.

**8. Sittings of the Parliament:** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.30 a.m. on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna, M.P. on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. Adjournment:** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 9.55 a.m. adjourned by the Speaker until 10.30 a.m. on Monday, February 17, 2025, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.