



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 21.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, February 18, 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. Chrisantha 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 Jayatissa, 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. K.V. Samantha Viddyaratna, 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. 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. 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. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of National Integration

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. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

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. 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. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura 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. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
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. Lasith Bhashana 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. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
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. 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. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
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. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
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. 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 that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill titled ‘Local Authorities Elections (Special Provisions)’ on 17 February 2025 in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Information for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health and Mass Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Industrial Development Board of Ceylon for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Entrepreneurship Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: The Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the year 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Rathna Gamage presented—

- (i) A petition dated 05.12.2024 from Mr. A.K. Wijepala of Ambalama Kanda, Kapuhempala, Akmimana;
- (ii) A petition dated 16.12.2024 from Mrs. C.M. Weththasinghe of No. 159/1, Yaggaha, Walahanduwa, Galle;
- (iii) A petition dated 30.11.2024 from Mr. D.G. Sumanasekara of Gonamulla Junction, Galle;
- (iv) A petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mr. G.D. Nandana of No.71, Sapugahawaththa, Digoda, Imaduwa;
- (v) A petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mr. G.R.N. Bandara of Basniyamaladeniya, Hiyare;
- (vi) A petition dated 23.11.2024 from Mr. Gallage Jinapriya of No. 33/11 A, Glane fall Road, Nuwaraeliya;
- (vii) A petition dated 17.12.2024 from Mrs. L.P. Wickramasinghe of Galgewaththa, Katukurunda, Habaraduwa;
- (viii) A petition dated 20.01.2025 from Mrs. L.P.R. Sajiwani of Bogahawaththa, Maliyagoda, Ahangama;
- (ix) A petition dated 14.12.2024 from Mr. M.H. Ranjith Amarasena of Gallenda Watta, Metaramba, Unawtuna;
- (x) A petition dated 29.12.2024 from Mr. M.K. Ariyaratna of Kahakade, Mayakaduwa, Imaduwa;
- (xi) A petition dated 29.12.2024 from Mr. Premarathna Hettiarachchi of Hikgahahena, Kodagoda, Imaduwa; and

- (xii) A petition dated 04.01.2025 from Mrs. Rasika Vibhodini Rayigam Bandara of No. 15, Dhammarama Mw, Katukurunda, Kalutara.
- (2) Hon. Muneer Mulaffer presented a petition dated 04.12.2024 from Mr. S.A.M. Nilam of No. 127/2, Ogodapola, Kahatowita.
- (3) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 01.12.2024 from Mrs. K.A.S. Udeshani of No. 147/4, Labeema, Kadurupokuna Road, Tangalle;
 - (ii) A petition dated 09.12.2024 from Mr. Kankanam Pathiranage Ranjith of Watarakgoda, Beliaththa;
 - (iii) A petition dated 01.12.2024 from Mr. M.K. Buddhadasa Jayasekara of Siyambalagahahena, Kadurupokuna, Tangalle;
 - (iv) A petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mr. M.P. Berty of Kadurupokuna Road, Tangalle;
 - (v) A petition dated 03.01.2025 from Mrs. Nandani Edirisuriya of No. 379, Gramodaya Mawatha, Kiwla-Lunama, Ambalanthota;
 - (vi) A petition dated 23.11.2024 from Mr. P.A. Karunasena of Polgahamulla, Dickwella;
 - (vii) A petition dated 05.01.2025 from Mr. R.K.K.A. Nandasiri of kodithuwakku Stores, Siyambala Kote, Barawakumbuka;
 - (viii) A petition dated 13.12.2024 from Mr. S.S. Mahinda Abeysekara of Bogahawatta, Pathegama North, Kottagoda, Matara;
 - (ix) A petition dated 13.12.2024 from Mr. U.R. Gambheera Arachchi of No.78, Galpoththayaya, Julampitiya;
 - (x) A petition dated 28.11.2024 from Mr. U.W.A. Piyasiri of ‘Sirisewana’, Galagama, Nakulugamuwa;
 - (xi) A petition dated 19.11.2024 from Mr. W.G.P. Epa of No. 265/A, Rohana Waththa, Dehigahalanda, Ambalanthota; and
 - (xii) A petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mrs. W.K.G. Nirosha of No.58, Medayala, Hakuruwela.
- (4) Hon. Ajith Agalakada presented a petition dated 23.12.2024 from Mr. H.P.V. Kwintos George of 02nd Mile Post, Hulandawa Left, Marawa, Monaragala.
- (5) Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage presented a petition dated 16.01.2025 from Mr. W.W. Thamarasiri of ‘Nisal’, Pallawela, Radawela.
- (6) Hon. Jagath Manuwarna presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 08.12.2024 from Mrs. D. Jayani Nimanthika of No. 395/10, digana Nilagama, Digana;
 - (ii) A petition dated 07.01.2025 from Mrs. K.P.W.G. Gnanalatha of No. 68/2, Dewala Road, Mudunakade, Thalathuoya; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 26.12.2024 from Mrs. S.L. Hettiarachchi of No. 84, Main Streat, Thalathuoya.

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

5. Appropriation Bill—(First Allotted Day): Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question (17th February 2025),—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question again proposed, and debate resumed.

(At 11.00 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 11.24 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

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

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,—That Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.41 p.m. Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.13 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.

The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,—That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.16 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.

And it being 6.00 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

6. Adjournment (Additional Building for Meelad Vidyalaya, Dehiwala):
The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 6.26 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 06th February, 2025.