



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 23.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 20, 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. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

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. 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 Vidyaratna, 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 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. 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. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

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. 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. 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. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna

Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam

Hon. Hesha 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. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathasan
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. Chathura 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. 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. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

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. 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. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
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. Suranga Rathnayaka

Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
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. Aravinda Senarath
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

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. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Performance Reports of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for the First, Second and Third Quarters 2024 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of India for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, under Section 75(1) of Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 and passed by the Parliament on 26 July 2013 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1828/9 dated 17 September 2013 entered on 16 December 2024 and moved that this Protocol be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented the Annual Report of the Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited for the year 2022/2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation and Community Infrastructure.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs 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 Public Security and the institutions 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.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. K.V. Samantha Vidyaratna presented —
- (i) A petition dated 28.12.2024 from Mr. A.P. Rajasuriya of No. 40/8, Dalada Canel Road, Mailagasthenna, Badulla; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 29.11.2024 from Mr. R.M. Hemachandra Bandara of Bo Sewana, Boghamadiththa, Haliela.
- (2) Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka presented—
- (i) A petition dated 06.12.2024 from Mr. Ariyadasa Godagama of Dehaththagewaththa, Aluth Ihala, Mapalagama-Central;
 - (ii) A petition dated 28.11.2024 from Mr. K.A. Thabrew of ‘Ranga Villa’, Walinguruketiya Road, Ambagahahandiya, Urugasmanhandiya; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 11.12.2024 from Mr. K.G. Senevirathne of No. 333, Gadaladeniya, Pilimathalawa.
- (3) Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage presented—
- (i) A petition dated 23.01.2025 from Mrs. A.A.S. Kaushalya of No. 313/54, Walawwatta, Gampaha;
 - (ii) A petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mr. H.H. Palitha Dhanapala of No. 19 A, Moragoda, Gampaha;
 - (iii) A petition dated 03.01.2025 from Mr. K.A.J. Abeysinghe of No. 165, Henarathgoda, Mudungoda, Gampaha;
 - (iv) A petition dated 22.11.2024 from Mr. K.V. Anurakirthi of No. 220, Jayawardhana Mawatha, Madala, Ellagawa;
 - (v) A petition dated 06.01.2025 from Mr. P.P. Sarath Rajapaksha of No. 203, Kuttiwila, Kirindiwela;
 - (vi) A petition dated 11.12.2024 from Mr. Sanjaya Hewa Bambarandage of No. 281/C, Kossinna, ganemulla; and
 - (vii) A petition dated 06.01.2025 from Mr. W.J.P.C.U. Wijayathunga of No. 11, Dambuwatta, Pahala Yagoda, Imbulgoda.
- (4) Hon. Chathura Galappaththi presented—
- (i) A petition dated 08.01.2025 from Mrs. H.M. Niluka Samali Herath of Wale Waththe, Thalalla South, Gandara;
 - (ii) A petition dated 18.01.2025 from Mr. K.L.C. Nishantha of Gorakagaha Koratuwa, Kokmaduwa, Waligama;
 - (iii) A petition dated 17.12.2024 from Mr. P. Sanjiawa Prasad Fernando of No. 84 A, Gamage Watta, Godigamuwa East, Badalgama;
 - (iv) A petition dated 18.01.2025 from Mr. P.M. Jayantha of No. 499, Gangasiripura, Debarawewa, Thissamaharama; and
 - (v) A petition dated 17.12.2024 from Mr. S.M. Piyathissa of No. 12, Kapruka Watta, Alakoladeniya, Negambo Road, Kurunegala.

- (5) Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana presented a petition dated 11.11.2024 from Mr. H.D. Ranjan of Ganankete, Welpalla.
- (6) Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera presented a petition dated 30.11.2024 from Mr. W. Jayantha Weerasiri of No. A 58/2, Dahami Sewana, C/O Dehiowita Co-op City, Algoda, Dehiowita.
- (7) Hon. Lal Premanath presented a petition dated 25.12.2024 from Mr. Sarath Hewapathirana of Henawaththa, Hallala, Waligama.
- (8) Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 26.11.2024 from Mr. P.G. De Silva of Sirisewana, Hotel Road, Ahungalla.
- (9) Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara presented a petition dated 01.12.2024 from Mr. H.L. Samantha Kumara of No. 270/8 A, Nethmini Uyana, Bodimulla, Anukkane, Kuliyapitiya.

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

3. Appropriation Bill—(Third 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 10.47 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 11.52 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.42 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources moved,—That Hon. Aravinda Senarath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.20 p.m. Hon. Aravinda Senarath took the Chair.)

And it being 6.00 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Friday, February 21, 2025.

4. Adjournment (Cancellation of Permits for Liquor Shops in Periya Nilawanai, Ampara): The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure moved,—That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being 6.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 06th February, 2025.