



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 24.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, February 21, 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. 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 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. 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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Namal Karunaratne, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

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. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports

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

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. (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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law

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. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
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. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
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. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir

Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
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. 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. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda

Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
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. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
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

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 announcements:—

I

“I table the report of the Special Committee appointed by me, chaired by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Hon. (Mrs.) Hemali Weerasekara, comprising of the members, the Hon. Vijitha Herath and the Hon. R.M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, to investigate and report on the complaints submitted to me regarding the conduct of the Hon. Member of Parliament (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna. Further, I wish to inform that this report be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

II

“I wish to inform this House that after considering the requests submitted to me from time to time by the Honourable Members of Parliament requesting to take necessary actions regarding their security concerns, have been forwarded to the Acting-Inspector General of Police for appropriate actions.”

2. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. D. V. Chanaka presented a petition dated 16.12.2024 from Mr. A.D. Premathilake of No. 3B, Kaluwala Road, Amunugoda, Imbulgoda.
- (2) Hon. Hector Appuhamy presented a petition dated 22.11.2024 from Mr. N.C.S. Premalal Mendis of Puranagama, Kottukachchiya.
- (3) Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi presented a petition dated 27.11.2024 from Mr. A. Edirisinghe of No. 3393/5, Nuge Cross Road, Moraketiya, Ambilipitiya.
- (4) Hon. Ashoka Gunasena presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 09.12.2024 from Mr. D.G.Dharmasiri of Balagalla Watta, Pahala Wala Kumbura, Alawwa; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 22.12.2024 from Mr. J.H.G. Hemachandra of No. 312/3, Pahala Wala Kumbura, Alawwa.
- (5) Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 08.01.2025 from Mrs. Abdul Rasidu Pathumma Rani of No. 52/D, Ambagahawatta, Atalugama, Bandaragama;

- (ii) A petition dated 20.01.2025 from Mr. D.S. Wijesekara of Kachchcagoda, Payagala;
 - (iii) A petition dated 21.01.2025 from Mr. E.D. Nandasiri of No. 49, Parana Police Watta, Bombuwala Road, Nagoda;
 - (iv) A petition dated 16.12.2024 from Mr. K.A. Lalith Kumara of No. 11/7 A, Alubogawaththa, Pitawala, Panadura;
 - (v) A petition dated 02.12.2024 from Mr. M.P. Jayasekara of Near the 29th Mile Pos, Kalamulla, Kaluthara;
 - (vi) A petition dated 08.01.2025 from Mr. Nuwan Muhandiram of No. 58, Bandarawatta, Henegama, Pokunuwita;
 - (vii) A petition dated 11.12.2024 from Mrs. Thilaka Hewawitharana of No. 23/30, Egodawaththa Road, Lake Road, Boralasgamuwa; and
 - (viii) A petition dated 07.01.2025 from Mr. W.W. Gamini Nanayakkara of No. 65, Sandakelum Mawatha, Habaralagahalanda, Wadduwa.
- (6) Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama presented —
- (i) A petition dated 09.01.2025 from Mrs. Akurange Chandralatha of No. D 92/2, Maskade Watta, Hurimaluwa, Rambukkana;
 - (ii) A petition dated 13.12.2024 from Mr. B.A.A. Wimalaweera of No. 349, Temple Road, Makandura (N/W), Gonawila;
 - (iii) A petition dated 02.12.2024 from Mrs. G.P.T.P. Weerasesekara of No. 306/B, Wawanawaththa Road, Mampe, Piliyandala;
 - (iv) A petition dated 20.12.2024 from Mr. H.A. Ranjith of No. 139, Galahitiyawa, Ganemulla;
 - (v) A petition dated 06.12.2024 from Mr. J.A.U.A. Perera of No. 44/8, Uggashena, Walpola, Ragama;
 - (vi) A petition dated 06.01.2025 from Mr. J.R.S. Rupasinghe of No. F/226, Ranpokunugama 11th Step, Nittambuwa;
 - (vii) A petition dated 06.01.2025 from Mrs. M.A. Krishanthi Shyamini of No. 51, Zone No 01, Millanium City, Kotugoda;
 - (viii) A petition dated 20.12.2024 from Mr. P.C.S. Weerasuriya of No. 448 N 6, Ehelagahahena, Pethiyagoda, Gampaha;
 - (ix) A petition dated 19.12.2024 from Mr. P.D.N. De Silva of No. 92, Jana Udana Gama, Naiwala, Essalla, Weyangoda;
 - (x) A petition dated 07.01.2025 from Mr. P.D.P. Kumara Dharmasena of No. 128, Walpola Roda, Ragama;
 - (xi) A petition dated 03.01.2025 from Mr. R.A.M. Ranabahu of No. 154/3/C, Mabodala Watta, Mabodala;

- (xii) A petition dated 13.12.2024 from Mrs. T.A. Irangani of No. 137/1 B, Walpitamulla, Dewalapola; and
 - (xiii) A petition dated 13.12.2024 from Mrs. Vijitha Kumari Weerasuriya of No. 397/1, Webada (North).
- (7) Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya presented—
- (i) A petition dated 09.12.2024 from Mr. B.S. Wijekoon Kulathunga of Karapane Junction, Ihala Kalugala, Beligala; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mr. W.D. Wickramanayake of No. A 432, 'Rathnawasa', Maththamagoda, Kotiyakumbura.
- (8) Hon. Dewananda Suraweera presented —
- (i) A petition dated 19.12.2024 from Mr. A.S. Hettiarachchi of No. 160/4, Koswatta Road, Nawala;
 - (ii) A petition dated 07.12.2024 from Mr. K. K. Mathanga Perera of No. 50/1, Pitipana North, Homagama;
 - (iii) A petition dated 18.12.2024 from Mr. K.S. Athula of No. 525/1 C, Bokundara Road, Erawwala, Pannipitiya;
 - (iv) A petition dated 06.01.2025 from Mr. N.S. Rathnaweera of No. 81, 03rd Step, Narthanagala, Horana;
 - (v) A petition dated 18.01.2025 from Mr. P. Lokuhetti of No. 261, Adi 100 Road, Mirijjawila, Hambanthota;
 - (vi) A petition dated 02.12.2024 from Mr. R. Upul Nishantha of No. 115/1/1, Sigera Road, Madiwela, Kotte; and
 - (vii) A petition dated 20.01.2025 from Mr. Susil Wijayarathna, a member of the Waththegedara External Investors' Association, No. 32, Old Road, Pannipitiya.

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

3. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 75(5) of the Parliament, 27th Thursday, 28th Friday, February 2025 and 01st Saturday, 03rd Monday, 04th Tuesday, 05th Wednesday, 06th Thursday, 07th Friday, 08th Saturday, 10th Monday, 11th Tuesday, 12th Wednesday, 14th Friday, 15th Saturday, 17th Monday, 18th Tuesday, 19th Wednesday, 20th Thursday and 21st Friday, March 2025 be allotted days for the consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2025).

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1): 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 of Parliament on allotted days for consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2025) from 27th Thursday, February 2025 and 01st Saturday, 03rd Monday to 06th Thursday, 08th Saturday, 10th Monday to 12th Wednesday, 15th Saturday, and 17th Monday to 20th Thursday, March 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. provisions of paragraphs (5) and (6) of 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.

5. Sittings 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 of Parliament on allotted days for consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2025) on 28th Friday, February, 2025, 07th Friday and 14th Friday, March 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. provisions of paragraphs (5) and (6) of 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.

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 75(2) of the Parliament, the hours of the sitting of Parliament on Friday, 21st March, 2025 allotted for consideration of the “Appropriation” Bill (2025) shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 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.

7. Appropriation Bill—(Fourth 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 10.50 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.30 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Science and Technology moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.31 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

And it being 6.00 p.m. the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

8. Adjournment (Prevention of Elephant Deaths Due to Collision with Trains): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned at 6.42 p.m. by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2025, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 06th February, 2025.