



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 25.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Saturday, February 22 , 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. 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.) 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. Namal Karunaratne, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

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

Hon. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment

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

Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports

Hon. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of National Integration

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. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning

Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education

Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana

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

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. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Mohamed Sali Naleem
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara

Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
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. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera

Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara

Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj

Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

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 announcement:—

“I wish to inform that, the following three Members have been nominated by me, to serve in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, with the Speaker as the Chair, the Prime Minister, Leader of the House of Parliament, and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 126 (1) of Parliament:—

Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2023 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 Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 112 read with Section 16 of the Regulation of the Insurance Industry Act, No. 43 of 2000 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2415/79 of 22nd December 2024 and moved that these Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing 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 Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development 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.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented —

- (i) A petition dated 10.01.2025 from Mr. M.R. Nadika Fernando of No. 216, Chandrasekara Road, Horethuduwa, Keselwatta, Panadura;
- (ii) A petition dated 20.01.2025 from Mrs. M.S.F. Rihana of No. 117/29 B, Mafoor Crescent, Kalutara South;
- (iii) A petition dated 23.12.2024 from Mrs. P. Nilanthi Perera of No. 95/A, Migahamula, Atulugama, Bandaragama; and
- (iv) A petition dated 20.12.2024 from Mrs. R.K. Ashoka Ranjani of No. 173, Bandaragama West, Bandaragama.

(2) Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama presented a petition dated 01.12.2024 from Mrs. M.M. Swarna of Pahala Aramba, Kirinda, Puhulwella.

(3) Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake presented —

- (i) A petition dated 06.01.2025 from Mr. Ajith Jayasena of Teaching Hospital, Kurunegala;
- (ii) A petition dated 25.12.2024 from Mr. H.M.C.G.B. Herath of No. 03, Yatiwehara Housing Project, Negombo Road, Alakoladeniya, Kurunegala;
- (iii) A petition dated 13.12.2024 from Mr. K. Ariyaratna of Koskumbura-Thorayaya, Kurunegala;
- (iv) A petition dated 26.11.2024 from Mr. K.G. Rajasinghe of 12th Lane, Reglan Estate, Boyagane;
- (v) A petition dated 30.12.2024 from Mr. K.L.N. Sahabandu of No. 73, Wickramasinghepura, Mawathagama;
- (vi) A petition dated 30.12.2024 from Mr. M.K.B. Herath of No. 35/B/2, Pragathi Mawatha, Udairiyagama, Peradeniya; and
- (vii) A petition dated 02.12.2024 from Mr. W.M.I.R. Chandra of No. 442/53, Nadi Uyana, Second Step, Bamunussa, Maspotha.

(4) Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana presented —

- (i) A petition dated 18.12.2024 from Mr. D.M.M.C. Dissanayake of No. 255/1/8, Ihala Bomiriya, Kaduwela;
- (ii) A petition dated 17.12.2024 from Mrs. K.R.P. Dulwala of No. 723/29, Lake Teras, 5th Lane, Athurugiriya; and
- (iii) A petition dated 18.12.2024 from Mr. P.U.D. Perera of No. 169/1 A, Weerasekara Place, Bandarawatta, Biyagama.

(5) Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 16.10.2024 from Mr. S.C. Senavirathne of No. 21/123 D, Vijaya Mawatha, Isurupura, Anuradhapura.

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

4. Privileges: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law, M.P. on 20th February, 2025 in Parliament to the effect that her 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.

5. Appropriation Bill—(Fifth 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 10.52 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 2.27 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.50 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 Monday, February 24, 2025.

6. Adjournment (Prevention of Unlawful Fishing Activities in the North): The Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing 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 Monday, February 24, 2025, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 06th February, 2025.