



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 37.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Monday, March 10, 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. (Dr.) 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. 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. (Dr.) 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 Vidyaratna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

Hon. (Dr.) Hiniiduma 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. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

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. Gamagedara Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Muneer Mullafer, Deputy Minister of National Integration

Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation

Hon. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

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. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

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

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
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. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera
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. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mohamed Sali Naleem
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan

Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari 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. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Dinindu Saman
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
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. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha

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: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for the year 2023 and moved that this Report and Accounts be referred to the Relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment presented the —

- (i) Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Sri Lanka Social Security Board for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Rehabilitation of the Visually Handicapped Trust Fund for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jaya Container Terminals Limited for the year 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayatissa, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health and Mass Media presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Ayurveda Medical Council for the year 2023;
- (ii) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council for the year 2022;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of Ayurveda for the year 2023;
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Health for the year 2023; and
- (v) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Information for the year 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. K.V. Samantha Viddyaratna, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation for the years 2019 and 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited for the year 2022/2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(4) The Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Bureau of Rehabilitation for the year 2023;
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Superior Courts Complex Board of Management for the year 2023;
 - (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of the Law Commission for the year 2023; and
 - (iv) Performance Report of the Attorney General's Department for the year 2023
- which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana presented —

- (i) A petition dated 03.12.2024 from Mr. E.M.N.G. Edirisuriya of Haputale Road, Mallawaththawela, Wellawaya; and
- (ii) A petition dated 01.12.2024 from Mr. H.A.Nayana Thilak Rathnayake of ‘Nayana’, Heenahapuwa, Ella Road, Wellawaya.

(2) Hon. Ajith Agalakada presented —

- (i) A petition dated 04.02.2025 from Mr. Don Gamage Rupasinghe of Ekamuthupura, Nakkala, Monaragala; and
- (ii) A petition dated 04.01.2025 from Mr. R.A. Dassanayake of Front Temple Road, Hindi Kiwula, Moneragala.

(3) Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara presented a petition dated 01.02.2025 from Ms. H.L. Lakmini Kumari of Hituwala, Pinnawala, Balangoda.

(4) Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha presented —

- (i) A petition dated 05.02.2025 from Mr. E.W. Upali Karunarathne of Kiramba, Opanayaka;
- (ii) A petition dated 30.01.2025 from Ms. L.S. Shiroshani of 214/1/B, Gurudola, Pelmadulla; and
- (iii) A petition dated 30.01.2025 from Mr. W.U. Priyantha Kumarasiri of ‘Madara’, Horaketiya, Balangoda.

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

4. Appropriation Bill—(Seventeenth Allotted Day): Considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 126

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

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

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

(At 2.05 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

(At 3.51 p.m. the Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

(At 5.45 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out lines 2 and 3 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent	207,200,000,000
Capital	65,700,000,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out lines 6 and 7 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 01 Operational Activities	40,360,000,000	3,910,000,000
Programme 02 Development Activities	76,625,000,000	50,245,000,000”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 212

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 11,610,000,000 for Head 212, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 750,000,000 for Head 212, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 213

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 115,000,000 for Head 213, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 55,000,000 for Head 213, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 214

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 75,200,000,000 for Head 214, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,500,000,000 for Head 214, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 215

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 350,000,000 for Head 215, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 15,000,000 for Head 215, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,870,000,000 for Head 215, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 215,000,000 for Head 215, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 335

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 70,000,000 for Head 335, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,000,000 for Head 335, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.21 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

5. Adjournment (Development of North-Western Province as a Tourist Destination): 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 at 6.38 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 21st February, 2025.