



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 38.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, March 11, 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. (Dr.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

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 Viddyaratna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

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. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways
Hon. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment
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. 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. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media
Hon. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy
Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing
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. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
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. Heshan 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. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
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. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam

Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
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. 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. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Dinindu Saman
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath

Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi

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

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 Speaker presented the —

- (i) Second Installment – Part LVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part LIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021; and
- (iii) Second Installment – Part XXXVIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the “Development Activities Programme” appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.01.2025 to 28.02.2025 as per Clause (e) of the Motion for the Vote on Account passed by Parliament on 06.12.2024 .

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

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Sunil Handunnetti, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mantai Salt Limited for the year 2020/2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Paper Company Limited for the year 2015/2016;

- (iii) Annual Report of the National Crafts Council for the year 2023;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2022; and
- (v) Annual Report of the Industrial Development Board of Ceylon for the year 2022

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Regulations under the Section 20 read with Sections 4 (1) and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (ii) Regulation under Section 12 of the Finance Act, No. 12 of 2013 read together with the provisions of the Finance Act, No.12 of 2012; and
- (iii) Regulations under Section 112 read with Section 16 of the Regulation of Insurance Industry Act, No. 43 of 2000

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law presented —

- (i) A petition dated 27.01.2025 from Mr. M.D.K. Maldeniya of 147/C, Muththettuwatta, Hiswella, Kirindiwela; and
- (ii) A petition dated 16.01.2025 from Mr. S.A.P.K. Dayananda of No. 155, Ihalagama, Gampaha.

(2) Hon. Chathura Galappaththi presented —

- (i) A petition dated 17.02.2025 from Mr. Kodithuwakkuge Pantis of Hirimullage Watta, Thalgahagoda, Palatuwa; and
- (ii) A petition dated 29.12.2024 from Ms. S.K. Inoka Thushari of 'Sandeepa', Undupiyaliya Watta, Walgama Meda, Matara.

(3) Hon. Ravindra Bandara presented a petition dated 02.12.2024 from Ms. T.M. Deepa Sriyakanthi of Elbaddegala road, Phala Kadurugamuwa, Diayathalawa.

(4) Hon. Dinindu Saman presented a petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mr. H.M.L. Ranjith of No. 121/55, Wellakka, Weligama.

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

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 196

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 11.02 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 2.42 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

(At 3.11 p.m. the Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

(At 5.01 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Science and Technology

The Minister of Science and Technology on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 10 in page 36 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 2,950,000,000”

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.

Question that the sum of Rs. 230,000,000 for Head 196, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 25,000,000 for Head 196, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Science and Technology on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 14 in page 36 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 2,570,000,000 2,925,000,000”

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.

Ministry of Digital Economy

The Minister of Science and Technology on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 3 in page 34 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 9,871,000,000”

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 186

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 239,000,000 for Head 186, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 21,000,000 for Head 186, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Science and Technology on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 in page 34 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 4,513,000,000 7,330,000,000”

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 227

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,000,000,000 for Head 227, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,520,000,000 for Head 227, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Whereupon the Minister of Science and Technology proposed that the Chair do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

5. Adjournment (Grants of Deeds for Alternative Lands Provided for Expansion of Batticaloa Airport): The Minister of Science and Technology moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 6.25 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2025 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 21st February, 2025.