



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 39.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, March 12, 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. 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. (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.) Upali Pannilage, Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

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. 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. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

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. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of National Integration

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

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. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna

Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam

Hon. Heshu 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. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Aruna Panagoda

Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva 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. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana

Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Dinindu Saman
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
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. Presentation of Papers: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Jaffna for the year 2023;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2023; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the University of Colombo School of Computing 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: The Hon. (Dr.) Hiniiduma Sunil Senevi, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund For the year 2016;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year 2023; and

- (iii) The Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Archives 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. Eranga Gunasekara presented —

- (i) A petition dated 29.12.2024 from Mr. J.D. Upasena of Hunukotuwa Road, Kahatapitiya, Kananwila, Horana;
- (ii) A petition dated 22.01.2025 from Mr. K.D. Sirisena of No. 40, Pubudugama, Mulleriyawa; and
- (iii) A petition dated 05.02.2025 from Ms. L. Beatrice Perera of No. 13/92, Awissawella Road, Orugodawatta.

(2) Hon. Arkam Ilyas presented—

- (i) A petition dated 14.12.2024 from Mr. T. Karunarathna of Polpitiye Gedara, Miruppa, Denipitiya; and
- (ii) A petition dated 28.11.2024 from Mrs. W.G. Gnanawathi of Near the Kovilakanda, Waligama.

(3) Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna presented a petition dated 15.02.2025 from Mr. A. Mihira Harshana of District Court, Colombo 12.

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

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 118

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.28 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 3.31p.m. Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 133,078,000,000”

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. 3,858,000,000 for Head 118, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 273,000,000 for Head 118, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 13 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 47,781,000,000 101,507,000,000”

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 281

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 854,000,000 for Head 281, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 73,000,000 for Head 281, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 10,421,000,000 for Head 281, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,183,000,000 for Head 281, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 282

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 956,000,000 for Head 282, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 118,000,000 for Head 282, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 19 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 3,677,000,000 19,275,000,000”

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 285

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 722,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 100,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 22 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 6,406,000,000 4,261,000,000”

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 286

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 706,000,000 for Head 286, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 70,000,000 for Head 286, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 287

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 843,000,000 for Head 287, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 24,000,000 for Head 287, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 288

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 370,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 175,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,688,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 608,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 289

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 9 in page 22 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 1,101,000,000 1,621,000,000”

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 292

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 903,000,000 for Head 292, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 95,000,000 for Head 292, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 622,000,000 for Head 292, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 327

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 608,000,000 for Head 327, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 73,000,000 for Head 327, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.16 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Friday, March 14, 2025.

5. Annual Report of the Milco (Private) Limited (2018): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Milco (Private) Limited 2018 together with the observation of the Auditor-General as prepared for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 10.08.2023 under Section 14 (2) (c) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Annual Report of the Milco (Private) Limited (2019): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Milco (Private) Limited 2019 together with the observation of the Auditor-General as prepared for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 09.02.2024 under Section 14 (2) (c) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report of the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board (2020): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 21.11.2023 under Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Annual Reports of the Land Reform Commission (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Reports of the Land Reform Commission 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 together with the observation of the Auditor-General as prepared for the years ended 31.12.2015, 31.12.2016, 31.12.2017, 31.12.2018, 31.12.2019 and 31.12.2020 respectively and presented on 05.07.2023 under the Land Reform Act, No. 1 of 1972, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Annual Report of the Land Reform Commission (2021): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Land Reform Commission 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General as prepared for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 23.08.2023 under the Land Reform Act, No. 1 of 1972, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment (Mitigation of Floods Caused by Nilwala Salinity Barrier): The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.32 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 Friday, March 14, 2025, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 21st February, 2025.