



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 41.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Saturday, March 15, 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. 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.) 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. 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. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs
Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence
Hon. Muneer Mulaffer, 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. 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. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. Arkam Ilyas
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilaka
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi

Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi

Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake

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. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. Mohamed Sali Naleem, Member of Parliament, has tendered his letter of resignation from his Membership of Parliament to the Secretary-General of Parliament, and as a result a vacancy occurred in the Membership of the Tenth Parliament. The Letter of Resignation will now be read out by the Secretary-General of Parliament.”



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பாராளுமன்றம்
PARLIAMENT

15.03.2025

Secretary General,
Parliament

Resignation from the Position of Member of Parliament – M. S. Naleem (National List, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress)

I hereby tender my resignation as a Member of Parliament, as I intend to contest the Local Authorities Election in 2025.

Please accept my resignation accordingly.

Mohamed Sali Naleem, MP

II

“I wish to make a clarification regarding the matters raised on 14.03.2025 to the effect that Questions for Oral Answer presented by the Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri have been included in the Order Paper disregarding their order.

As such, I summoned a report in this regard from the Table Office. Accordingly, the questions of the Hon. Member have been included in the relevant Order Paper according to the order in which he had presented the questions concerned.

Therefore, I wish to inform the House that the allegations made by the Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri regarding the listing of Questions are baseless and that questions have been included in the Order Paper fairly in respect of all Members of Parliament following the order in which they have presented them.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Amendments to the List of Proposed Alterations in the Legends of Draft Estimates - 2025 submitted on 27th February 2025.

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

(2) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Annual Report of the National Enterprise Development Authority for the year 2021 and moved that this Report be referred to the Relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: The Hon. Vijitha Herath, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tourism Development Fund for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund for the year 2023; and
- (iv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for the year 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Kins Nelson presented a petition dated 10.02.2025 from Mr. H. G. Somachandra No. 520, pelatiyawa, Polonnaruwa.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala presented a petition dated 14.02.2025 from Mr. E. A. D. N. Dhammika Edirisuriya of No. 174/F/1, Uthuwamkanda Road, Thalawathugoda.

- (3) Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi presented a petition dated 20.01.2025 from Mr. W.C. Nishantha Costha of No. 11, St. Johns Road, Negombo.

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

5. Appropriation Bill—(Twenty First Allotted Day): Considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 112

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Hector Appuhamy, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.50 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.37 p.m. Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

(At 4.21 p.m. Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi took the Chair.)

(At 5.21 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,190,000,000 for Head 112, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 61,000,000 for Head 112, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 18,217,000,000 for Head 112, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,995,000,000 for Head 112, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Whereupon the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism 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 Monday, March 17, 2025.

6. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (2021): The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 08.09.2023 under Section 33 of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (2021): The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 22.03.2024 under Section 20(2) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund (2021): The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 22.03.2024 under Section 23(4) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (2021): The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 09.02.2024 under Section 40(1) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (2022): The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 07.05.2024 under Section 40(1) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Adjournment: The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.52 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 2025 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 21st February, 2025.