



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 43.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, March 18, 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. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

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. (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. 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. 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. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

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. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports

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. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

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

Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs

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. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana

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

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama

Hon. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
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.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake

Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana

Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
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:—

“As per the decision taken at the Committee on Parliamentary Business at its meeting held on 23rd January 2025, a four-member committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Hon. Minister Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney-at-Law, M.P., ‘to look into the legal basis for implementing the recommendations of Parliamentary Committees and to provide guidance on actions that can be taken within the Constitutional framework regarding the non-implementation of such recommendations.’

As per the decision taken at the Committee on Parliamentary Business at its meeting held on 15th March 2025, Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga, M.P. was also nominated as a member of the said committee.

Accordingly, I wish to inform this House that the membership of this five-member committee is as follows:-

Hon. Minister Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney-at-Law, M.P. - Chairman

Hon. Deputy Minister Sunil Watagala, Attorney-at-Law, M.P. - Member

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, M.P. – Member

Hon. Ajith P. Perera, M.P. - Member

Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga, M.P. - Member”

2. Presentation of Papers: The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Kabir Hashim presented a petition dated 02.12.2024 from Mr. Jayanath Kuruppu of No. 9/2, 3rd Lane, Saman Mawatha, Galavilawaththa, Homagama.
- (2) Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 28.01.2025 from Mr. A. K. A. Iroshan Manjula of Pelawatta, Thihagoda; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 10.02.2025 from Mr. M. Haripriya Rohana of No. 139/2, Beruwewela, Hakmana.
- (3) Hon. Fasmin Sharif presented a petition dated 29.01.2025 from Mr. B.D. Gunasekara of No. 16/1, New Wariyagala Watta, Nillamba.
- (4) Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 16.12.2024 from Mr. K. Abeywickrama of No. 03, Dayagama, Walagambahuwa, Maradankadawala.

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

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 149

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi, 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 3.21 p.m. the Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj took the Chair.)

(At 5.02 p.m. Hon. Aravinda Senarath took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 14 in page 31 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 9,138,000,000”

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. 1,392,700,000 for Head 149, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 143,800,000 for Head 149, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 18 in page 31 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 3,069,000,000 8,926,500,000”

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 303

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 343,300,000 for Head 303, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 67,700,000 for Head 303, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 194

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,325,000,000 for Head 194, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,230,000,000 for Head 194, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,105,000,000 for Head 194, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,410,000,000 for Head 194, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 219

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 184,000,000 for Head 219, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 36,000,000 for Head 219, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 16 in page 35 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 5,500,000,000”

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 Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 in page 36 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 2,486,000,000 2,824,000,000”

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.

Whereupon the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation 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 19, 2025.

5. Annual Report of the National Youth Services Council (2021): The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Youth Services Council 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 17.10.2023 under Section 31 of the National Youth Services Act, No. 69 of 1979, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment (Proper Programme to Regulate Migrant Workers): The Leader of the House of Parliament 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 Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on 21st February, 2025.