



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 55.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, May 23, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne, Speaker

Hon. (Dr.) Rizvie Salih, Deputy Speaker and the Chair 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.) 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. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

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. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

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. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of National Integration

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

Hon. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing

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

Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning

Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

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

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

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. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
Hon. Arkam Ilyas
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir

Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
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. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala

Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi

Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake

Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law

Hon. Dinesh Hemantha

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:—

“I wish to inform this House that a Three - Member Committee has been appointed by me, chaired by the Hon. (Mrs.) Hemali Weerasekara, Deputy Chairperson of Committees, comprising the Hon. Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism and the Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, Chief Opposition Whip, as members, to investigate and report on a complaint submitted to me regarding the conduct of the Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law, Member of Parliament, on 20th May 2025 on the floor of the House.”

2. Presentation of Papers: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Financial Statements and Operations of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2024 and moved that the Financial Statements and Operations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the Foreign Loans (Repeal) Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. (Prof.) A.H.M.H. Abayarathna presented a petition dated 24.02.2025 from Mr. R.M. Tikiri Banda of No. 41/1, Bimbarama Road, Piliyandala.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 25.02.2025 from Mrs. I. M. Priyanka Sudarshani of No. 684, Aluthgama, Nabeta, Melsiripura; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 20.02.2025 from Mr. T. W. M. A. S. Weerasinghe of Ibbagamuwa Nebilikumbura Kanishta Vidyalaya, Ibbagamuwa.

- (3) Hon. Ravi Karunanayake presented a petition dated 17.02.2025 from Mr. P. Premalal Peiris of No. 62, Balapokuna Road, Colombo 06.
- (4) Hon. Waruna Liyanage presented a petition dated 05.02.2025 from Mr. A. A. Gunathilaka of No. 113, Asanga Stores, Rassagala, Balangoda.
- (5) Hon. Ajith Gihan presented a petition dated 28.02.2025 from Mr. S. M. A. P. Manchanayaka of Ihala Rambepitiya, Thisogama, Bingiriya.
- (6) Hon. Chandana Thennakoon presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 01.02.2025 from Mr. S. Nazar of Jagama, Palukadawala, Galgamuwa; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 02.03.2025 from Mr. W.M.M.A. Indika Wijekoon of Wilba Gedara, Bandarakoswatta.
- (7) Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 23.02.2025 from Mr. B.B.G. Premachandra of No. 101 1/B, Thorana Road, We Uda;
 - (ii) A petition dated 12.01.2025 from Mr. B.B.M. Sunil Athapattu of Udabadalawa, Kurunegala; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 10.02.2025 from Ms. S.S. Padmini of No. 603, Kuda Wewa, Kurunegala Road, Mandapola.
- (8) Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera presented a petition dated 14.02.2025 from Mr. H. K. Rashintha Thushara of No. 26/1C, Jayasumanarama Temple Road, Uluvitike, Galle.

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

5. Sri Lanka Electricity (Amendment): The Minister of Energy presented,— Bill to amend the Sri Lanka Electricity Act, No. 36 of 2024.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Friday, June 06, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

6. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 10.35 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.22 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,—That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.23 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee Wednesday, June 04, 2025.

7. Foreign Loans (Repeal) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

8. Adjournment: The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.44 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 03, 2025.