



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 58.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, June 05, 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. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing

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

Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

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. (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. 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. Chathuranga Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

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. R.M. Jayawardhana, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence

Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

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. 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. (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. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana

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. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
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. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law

Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
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. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
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. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed

Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
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. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, 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 announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of one more Petition filed at the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Sri Lanka Electricity (Amendment)’, in addition to the receipt of three Petitions mentioned in the announcements made by me on 03rd and 04th of June 2025.”

II

“I would like to make a clarification regarding the allegation raised in this House by the Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Member of Parliament, on 04th of June, 2025, that is, yesterday, that he was unable to obtain the annexures tabled in Parliament in response to the question for oral answer forwarded by him to the Hon. Prime Minister, the previous day.

I would like to point out that it is the normal practice for the Hansard Department to send the documents tabled in Parliament to the Library of Parliament after the relevant Minister has provided them, and that a Member, who wishes to obtain copies of such documents, has been provided with the opportunity to obtain them from the Library. Accordingly, I would like to specifically mention that there is an opportunity to obtain copies of the documents tabled in Parliament prior to the printing and issuance of the Hansard report.

Accordingly, upon further investigation, it was observed that, after receiving the annexures referred to by Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, the Hansard Department had taken steps to forward them to the Library. However, there is no record of Hon. Ravi Karunanayake having made any inquiries either at the Hansard Department or the Library to obtain copies of the relevant annexures.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that the statement made by Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, when presenting further information in this regard, that the release of the Hansard report would occur only after a delay of 3 months is also an incorrect and false statement and that the Hansard report for every sitting day up to 20.05.2025 has already been uploaded to the Parliament website.

Therefore, I wish to draw the attention of this August Assembly to the necessity of ensuring that action is always taken on the basis of accurate and truthful information when raising such matters.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual performance Report of the Department of Government Information for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Export Agriculture for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera presented a petition dated 28.01.2025 from Mr. G. Wickramasingha of No. 346/3 A, Ananda Maithri Lane, Habarakada, Homagama.
- (2) Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 01.01.2025 from Mrs. L.G.W. Thamara Nilangani of No. 119/B, Meddawala Road, Thiththapaththara.
- (3) Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara presented a petition dated 11.02.2025 from Mr. W. D. L. Dewapriya of Samanala Road, Pambahinna, Belihul Oya.
- (4) Hon. Nishantha Perera presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 29.01.2025 from Mrs. R. M. Ramani Dammika Menike of Pin Linda Mawatha, Igala, Elpitiya;
 - (ii) A petition dated 26.02.2025 from Mr. Ranchagodage Upasena of No. 32, Kaikawala, Induruwa; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 14.02.2025 from Mr. Welathege Piyadasa of 'Shriyani', Mandorawala, Urugasmanhandiya.

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

4. Companies (Amendment): The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development presented,— Bill to amend the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, June 19, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

5. Leave to introduce Bill: Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam, seconded by Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

6. National Transport Commission (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.24 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees 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 2.49 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation 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 27 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 Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Adjournment (Prevention of Criminal Activities Affecting Livelihood of Fishermen of Ampara and Batticaloa): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.38 adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, June 06, 2025.