



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 60.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, June 17, 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. 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.) 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. Ananda Wijepala, Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. K.V. Samantha Vidyaratna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. (Dr.) Hiniiduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural 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. 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. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment

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

Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour

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

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. (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. 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. Roshan Akmeemana

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

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

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

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. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne

Hon. B. Ariyawansa

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

Hon. K. Ilankumaran

Hon. Arkam Ilyas

Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe

Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi

Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC

Hon. Upul Kithsiri

Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law

Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan

Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara

Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara

Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law

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. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law

Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Nanda Bandara
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. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law

Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
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. (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 announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that, I have received copies of two petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Budgetary Relief Allowance of Workers (Amendment)’ (L.D.-O 19/2025) and the Bill titled ‘Budgetary Relief Allowance of Workers (Amendment)’ (L.D.-O 20/2025).”

II

“I would like to make a clarification on the situation that arose in this House when supplementary questions were raised in response to the questions submitted for oral answers on Friday, 06.06.2025.

Standing Orders 31 to 37 of Parliament provide for the method in which questions for oral answers and questions not for oral answers are dealt with, and accordingly, questions on general affairs may be asked from the Prime Minister or from a Minister with ministerial responsibility for certain subjects and functions assigned by the President.

Accordingly, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Orders 33(1), not more than two supplementary questions may be asked in relation to an answer so given, but it is very clearly stated that such supplementary questions should not raise matters which are not included in the original question and should be asked only for the purpose of clarifying any matter arising from an oral answer.

Further, if the Speaker is of the opinion that any further relevant question would violate the rules related to raising questions, the Speaker shall not allow the relevant questions to be asked.

I would also like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that the time allowed for asking and answering relevant questions may be limited by the Speaker as further provided for in Standing Order 33(2).

Accordingly, I am deeply concerned about the unnecessary disturbance created in this House during the time allocated for ‘Questions for Oral Answers’ on 2025.06.06 and the serious disruption caused to the business of the House as a result thereof, despite the very clear and unambiguous provisions of Standing Orders regarding the relevant questioning, and would like to express my strong displeasure in that regard.

In particular, the votes of condolence of four late members of Parliament were to be taken up on that day, and I express my deepest regret over this tense situation and for the inconvenience faced by the immediate family members of the former Members concerned who had come to the Parliament Gallery to attend the occasion.

Accordingly, considering all these circumstances, I would assure to always act in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders regarding the questions that are raised for oral answers, and I sincerely hope that the Members concerned will also abide by the particular provisions. Thus, I seek your fullest cooperation, as Members representing this Supreme Assembly in conducting the business of the House without unnecessary disruptions.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 20 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Act, No. 48 of 1985 and Act, No. 28 of 1987 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2437/04 of 19th May 2025 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual Report of the National Transport Commission for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Chief Government Whip of Parliament for the year 2024 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Department of Agrarian Development for the year 2021 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Environment presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Botanic Gardens for the year 2024 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 Reports from Committees: The Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) The Regulations made by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports under Section 34 read with Section 3 of the Convention Against Doping in Sports Act, No. 33 of 2013 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2430/24 of 03rd April 2025; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Youth Services Council for the year 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Rathna Gamage presented a petition dated 09.03.2025 from Mr. Ipalawattage Gamini of Pelessa Road, Thiththagalla, Ahangama.
- (2) Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law presented --
 - (i) A petition dated 22.03.2025 from Mrs. J. A. E. I. Perera of No. 57/13, John Rodrigo Mawatha, Katubedda, Moratuwa; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 17.03.2025 from Mrs. T. L. C. De Silva of No. 179/2, Dibbadda, Panadura.
- (3) Hon. Ashoka Gunasena presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 12.03.2025 from Mrs. Janaki Kobbakaduwa of No. 33/E/32, Mihindu Mawatha, Malabe; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 10.03.2025 from Mrs. S. Dinoshani Disanayaka of Wagolla, Mahagama, Hewadiwela, Rambukkana.
- (4) Hon. E. M. Basnayaka presented a petition dated 18.02.2025 from Mrs. N. V. Sirimallee of No. 298/4, Pahala Gammedda, Theldeniya.
- (5) Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi presented a petition dated 20.12.2024 from Mr. P. R. Antony Julian Fernando of No. 102, Pannila Road, Beruwala.

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

5. Gambling Regulatory Authority: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented,— Bill to provide for the establishment of the Gambling Regulatory Authority; for the repeal of the Betting on Horse-Racing Ordinance (Chapter 44), Gaming Ordinance (Chapter 46) and the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, July 08, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

6. Bills of Exchange (Amendment): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Justice and National Integration presented,— Bill to amend the Bills of Exchange Ordinance (Chapter 82).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, July 08, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

7. Samurdhi (Amendment): The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment presented,— Bill to amend the Samurdhi Act, No. 1 of 2013.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, July 08, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

8. Regulations under the Convention Against Doping in Sports Act: The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports under Section 34 read with Section 3 of the Convention Against Doping in Sports Act, No. 33 of 2013 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2430/24 of 03rd April 2025, which were presented on 03.06.2025, be approved.

(At 11.03 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 11.27 a.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.50 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

(At 3.30 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 3.52 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. 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 4.51 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy chairperson of Committees until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, June, 18, 2025.