



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 61.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, June 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. 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 Viddyarathna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma 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. 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. R.M. Jayawardhana, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

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

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.) 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. 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. Roshan Akmeemana

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

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. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
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. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. M.A.M. Thahir
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. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe

Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva 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. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, 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 announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that, I have received copies of another two petitions on 17th June 2025 which had been 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) in addition to the receipt of the Petitions mentioned in my announcement dated 17th June 2025.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Housing Development Finance Corporation Bank of Sri Lanka (HDFC Bank) for the year 2023;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2023; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Employees’ Trust Fund Board for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: The Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration presented the Report of the Committee on Orders made by the Minister of Justice and National Integration under Sections 2(1) and 1(2) of the Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements Act, No. 49 of 2024 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2429/51 of 28th March 2025 which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Sunil Handunnetti presented a petition dated 26.02.2025 from Mr. Anil Hewa Bandula of 'Hansiprabha', Baddegammedda, Aparekka.
- (2) Hon. T. B. Sarath presented a petition dated 23.02.2025 from Mr. A. M. Sunil Adikari of No. 19/2, Rankoth Wehera Mawatha, Nishshanka Malla Pura, Polonnaruwa.
- (3) Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana presented a petition dated 11.03.2025 from Mr. E. P. Chandrasena of No. 114, Pitapahamuna, Hiriya, Lenawa.
- (4) Hon. Roshan Akmeemana presented a petition dated 22.12.2024 from Mr. H.P. Ananda Jayarathna of 13th Mile Post, Lakvijayagama, Thambalagamuwa.

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

5. Orders under the Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act: The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Orders made by the Minister of Justice and National Integration under Sections 2(1) and 1(2) of the Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act, No. 49 of 2024 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2429/51 of 28th March 2025, which were presented on 03.06.2025, be approved.

(At 11.07 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 2.56 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

(At 3.06 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 3.36 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2025.