



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 62.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, June 19, 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. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

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. (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. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

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. 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. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

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. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education

Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama

Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

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

Hon. B. Ariyawansa

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
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. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
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. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
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. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
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. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
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. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
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. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law
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 that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill titled ‘Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment)’ on 18th of June 2025 in terms of the Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Companies (Amendment)’.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Annual Report of the National Design Centre 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.

(2) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Museums for the year 2024 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Order under Section 3 of the Stamp Duty (Special Provisions) Act, No. 12 of 2006 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2429/39 dated 27th March 2025);
- (ii) Regulations 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 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2434/12 dated 29th April 2025); and
- (iii) Regulations 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 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2435/02 dated 05th May 2025)

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva presented a petition dated 15.01.2025 from Mr. Dhammika Parana Yapa of No. 2, Lake Drive, Colombo 08.
- (2) Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 25.02.2025 from Mrs. K. Chamila Priyangani Kumari of No. 202/B/4, Alothiyawa, Wellmilla Junction, Bandaragama; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 15.02.2025 from Mr. R. Dharmarathna of No. 3/A, Doova Watta Road, Thumbowila, Piliyandala.
- (3) Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe presented a petition dated 10.02.2025 from Mr. K. L. Lakshman of No. 61/1, Mangalasiripura, Bellapitiya, Horana.
- (4) Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage presented a petition dated 01.04.2025 from Mr. E. S. M. D. Priyadarshana of No. 122/A, Batuwatta East, Ragama.
- (5) Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna presented a petition dated 07.04.2025 from Mr. L. A. Kumaradasa of No. 58, Aranagama, Bogahawewa, Padawiya.
- (6) Hon. Padmasiri Bandara presented a petition dated 17.02.2025 from Mr. W. H. M. Karunarathna Banda of No. 117/3, Girithale.
- (7) Hon. R.G. Wijerathna presented a petition dated 30.11.2024 from Mr. S. M. D. Subasinghe of 'Sumedura', Boralessa Road, Hanguranketha.

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

5. Sitzings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 11.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Leave to introduce Bill: Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Colombo Association of Language Skills and Dramatic Art.”

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 Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education for report.

7. Adjournment (Special Audit Report on Advance Payment for Import of 15,000 Dairy Cattle): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

(At 12.02 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 2.04 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.00 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, June 20, 2025.