



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 63.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, June 20, 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. 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. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

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. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways

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. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism

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. 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. Roshan Akmeemana

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna

Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

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

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
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, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
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. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
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. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairosa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
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. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah

Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi

Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi

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 ‘National Transport Commission (Amendment)’ on 19th of June 2025 in terms of the provisions of 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 another petition on 19th June 2025 which had been filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Companies (Amendment)’ in addition to the receipt of the Petition mentioned in my announcement dated 19th June 2025.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Second Installment – Part LXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part XLVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023; and
- (iii) Ninth Installment – Part XXVII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2024

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual Performance Report of the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka for the year 2023 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Annual Report of the Official Languages Commission for the year 2023 and moved that the 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: Hon. T.K. Jayasundara, Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Sunil Handunnetti, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Report of the Committee on Annual Performance Report of the Department of Textile Industry for the year 2023 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala presented a petition dated 16.04.2025 from Mr. D. S. A. P. Gunawardhana and Nine Others of No. 47, Minuwanpitiya Road, Panadura.
- (2) Hon. Rohana Bandara presented a petition dated 30.03.2025 from Mr. U. M. Anura Kumara Bandara of No. 218, Mahasen Mawatha, Vijayapura, Anuradhapura.
- (3) Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 26.03.2025 from Mr. A. Hettiarachchi of No. 138, 'Somnasa', Siyambalagoda, Polgasowita;
 - (ii) A petition dated 26.03.2025 from Mr. M.G. Punchi Banda of No. 54/15, Renagala Road, Pahala Imbulgoda, Imbulgoda;
 - (iii) A petition dated 10.03.2025 from Mrs. Renuka Manage of No. 212, kudagam 05, Dakunu Iwura, Lunugamwehera; and
 - (iv) A petition dated 28.03.2025 from Mr. Susantha Udaya Kumara of No. 95, Asgiriwalpola, Udugampola.
- (4) Hon. Thilina Samarakoon presented a petition dated 22.12.2024 from Mrs. E. M. Nayana Pathma Kumari of Depot Road -11, Kekirawa.

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

5. Order under the Stamp Duty (Special Provisions) Act: The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 3 of the Stamp Duty (Special Provisions) Act, No. 12 of 2006 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2429/39 of 27th March 2025, which was presented on 03.06.2025, be approved.

(At 11.35 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.46 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development moved,— That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.00 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 1): The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That 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. 2434/12 of 29th April 2025, which were presented on 03.06.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act (No. 2): The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That 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. 2435/02 of 05th May 2025, which were presented on 03.06.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Effectiveness, Accountability and Legal Clarity of Decisions of District Coordinating Committees): The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 08, 2025.