



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 67.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, July 11, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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. 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.) Upali Pannilage, Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

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. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative 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. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation
Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways
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. 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. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy
Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs
Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education
Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan

Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Nishantha Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka

Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
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. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

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

- (i) Eleventh Volume – Part 01 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Independent Commissions;
- (ii) Eleventh Volume – Part 01 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Departments;
- (iii) Eleventh Volume – Part 01 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on District Secretariats;
- (iv) Eleventh Volume – Part 01 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Ministries and State Ministries;
- (v) Eleventh Volume – Part 02 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on State Banks;
- (vi) Eleventh Volume – Part 02 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Cooperation, Boards and Bureaus;
- (vii) Eleventh Volume – Part 02 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Universities, Post Graduate Institutes and Higher Education Institutes;
- (viii) Eleventh Volume – Part 02 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Statutory and Other Funds; and
- (ix) Eleventh Volume – Part 04 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Foreign Funded Projects;
- (x) Eleventh Volume – Part 05 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Provincial Councils;
- (xi) Eleventh Volume – Part 06 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Local Authorities; and
- (xii) Eleventh Volume – Part 09 of the Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on State Owned Companies
- (xiii) Eleventh Volume – The Triennial Report of the Auditor-General on Environment Audits and Performance Audits

in terms of Section 14 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 received to the National Audit Office, 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 Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report of the Ranaviru Seva Authority for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Customs for the year 2024;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Census and Statistics for the year 2024;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of Public Enterprises for the year 2024; and
- (iv) Performance Report of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for the year 2024

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Educational Publications Department for the year 2024 and move that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 2 of the Tobacco Tax Act, No. 8 of 1999, as amended, relating to Imposition of Tobacco Tax on Beedi and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2430/16 of 01st April 2025 and moved that this Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation for the year 2024 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Information for the year 2024 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Cinnamon Development 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.

(9) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Regulations made by the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tea Board under Section 15 read with Sections 7(1) and 8(2) of the Tea (Tax and Control of Export) Act, No. 16 of 1959 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2343/63 of 05th August 2023 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Performance Report and Accounts of the Title Insurance Fund for the year 2024; and
- (ii) Performance Report and Accounts of the Registrar General's Department for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports and Accounts be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Community Based Corrections for the year 2024; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(12) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice and National Integration under Section 61 read with Section 45 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2439/34 of 04th June 2025 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Timber Corporation for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(14) The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment presented the Performance Report of the Former Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment 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.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana presented a petition dated 01.03.2025 from Mrs. Chandrakanthi Weerasinghe of Thihawa, Mailamada, Karuwalagaswewa Road, Kumbukwewa.
- (2) Hon. Arun Hemachandra presented a petition dated 09.01.2025 from Mr. L.J. Baptist of No 72, Post Office Lane, Trincomalee.
- (3) Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 26.12.2024 from Mr. S. A. Saliya Ranjith Bandara of No. 102/2, Kirinda, Hondiyadeniya, Gampola.
- (4) Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake presented a petition dated 10.03.2025 from Mr. K.D. Jayantha Ranjith of No. 12/135, Kovil Kade, Passara.
- (5) Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 10.02.2025 from Mr. W.H.A. Kumar Thamel of No. 137/18, Aluth Watta, Chilaw.
- (6) Hon. Dewananda Suraweera presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 26.02.2025 from Mr. A. Gamage and Seven Others of No. 49, Galwala Road, Mirihana, Nugegoda; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 19.02.2025 from Mr. Walimuni Raj Mendis Abeysekara of No. 10/A, Dambahena Road, Maharagama.
- (7) Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara presented a petition dated 11.05.2025 from Mr. I. D. Dayarathna of Lekam Watta, Barigoda, Nakkawatta.

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

3. Mediation (Civil and Commercial Disputes): The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— Bill to provide for the Mediation of Civil and Commercial Disputes; to repeal the Commercial Mediation Center of Sri Lanka Act, No. 44 of 2000; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Friday, July 25, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

4. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 24(2) of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Developing a programme to properly monitor the cooperative rural banks system: Hon. Rohana Bandara, seconded by Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the cooperative rural banks, which are the closest to people, be properly monitored by the government in order to address the prevailing situation as depositors of these banks are faced with various difficulties because of the collapse of a number of these banks for various reasons. (P.14/2024)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,—That Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.30 a.m. Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

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

6. Enhancing the contribution of the livestock sector to the national product: Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, seconded by Hon. Rohana Bandara moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government of Sri Lanka should develop a programme to enhance the contribution of the livestock sector to the country's national product. (P.23/2024)

(At 1.41 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Making every Youth Member a gainfully employed person or self employed entrepreneur: Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, seconded by Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri moved,— That this Parliament resolves that every youth member attaining the age of 18 years should have the right to gainful employment or if not employed, be provided with financial assistance to become a self-employed entrepreneur. (P. 27/2024)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment: The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 3.18 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2025.