



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 52.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, May 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. 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. 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. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

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. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

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. 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. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of National Integration

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. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Ajith Agalakada
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. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera 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. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairosa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law

Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
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. Dinesh Hemantha
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 announce that I have received the decision of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill titled ‘Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment)’ which had been challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has held that, having considered the submissions, the Court was of the view that there was no material to conclude that any of the provisions of the Bill violates any provision of the Constitution, and accordingly, the Petitioner had informed the Court that the Petition will be withdrawn. Hence the Supreme Court had allowed to withdraw the petition and terminated further proceedings and dismissed the petition.

I order that the decision of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings.”

II

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve on the Committee on Public Enterprises, in terms of the Standing Order 120 of Parliament, as per the motion agreed to by Parliament on 19 March 2025:—

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law

Hon. Mujibur Rahman”

III

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve on the each Sectoral Oversight Committees mentioned below, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 111 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 17 March 2025:—

1. Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations

Hon. Jeevan Thondaman

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka

2. Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development

Hon. Ajith P. Perera

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. S.M. Marikkar

Hon. Jagath Vithana

3. Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital

Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan

Hon. Heshan Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi

Hon. Chanaka Madugoda

Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran

4. Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna

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

5. Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan

Hon. Kins Nelson

6. Sectoral Oversight Committee on Science, Technology and Digital Transformation

Hon. Chathura Galappaththi

Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC

7. Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection

Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC

Hon. Mujibur Rahman”

IV

“I table in all three languages the lists of names of the members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the following Ministerial Consultative Committees during the First Session of the Tenth Parliament in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 112 of Parliament and as per the motions agreed to by Parliament on 19 March 2025:-

1. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education;
2. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism;
3. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation and Community Infrastructure;
4. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women and Child Affairs;
5. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment;
6. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Science and Technology;
7. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence;
8. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Digital Economy; and
9. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women and Child Affairs

Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Science and Technology

Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence

Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Digital Economy

Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe”

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

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XXXI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017;
- (ii) Third Installment – Part XXII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019;
- (iii) Second Installment – Part LX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020; and
- (iv) Second Installment – Parts XLI and XLII and Ninth Installment – Part XXIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023

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 —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Institute of Education for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of English of the Open 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.

(3) The Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Report on the observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Health in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Lanka Mineral Sands Limited for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Development 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.

(5) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice and National Integration in consultation with the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption under Section 156 read with Sections 82 and 92 of the Anti — Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2428/43 of 20th March 2025 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. (Dr.) Chrisantha Abeysena, the Chair of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges presented the First Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges for the First Session of the Tenth Parliament.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the —

- (i) Regulations under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4 (1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2428/07 dated 19th March 2025);
- (ii) Order under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/30 dated 31st January 2025);
- (iii) Notification under Section 19 read with Section 51 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/41 dated 31st January 2025); and
- (iv) Order under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 as amended, relating to Excise duty (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/42 dated 31st January 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. Rathna Gamage presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 20.02.2025 from Mr. D. N. Dias of No. 57, Seethagama A, Awissawella; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 15.09.2024 from Mr. K. Indika Kumara of Weligodawatta, Imdoova Road, Ahangama.
- (2) Hon (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 20.02.2025 from Mr. M. D. Thilina Thushara Gunathilaka of No. 432/1/B, Watarawum Road, Nalluruwa, Panadura; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 25.02.2025 from Mrs. M. D. Yuresha Erandi Gunathilaka of No. 432/1/B, Watarawum Road, Nalluruwa, Panadura.
- (3) Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 18.02.2025 from Mr. M. C. Ranjith Paris of No. 119, Chilaw Road, Kattuwa, Negambo;
 - (ii) A petition dated 18.02.2025 from Mr. M. G. D. K. Priyakelum of 225/B, Horape, Ragama;
 - (iii) A petition dated 21.02.2025 from Mr. P. D. T. Wasantha of No. 77, Kaluwarippuwa East, Katana; and
 - (iv) A petition dated 21.02.2025 from Mr. W. M. Wimalasiri of No. 53/N 3-A, Dewananda Mawatha, Pahalagama, Gampaha.
- (4) Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva presented a petition dated 02.05.2025 from Mr. G. Kapila Abeynayeka of No. 465/4, Thalawathugoda Road, Madiwela, Kotte.
- (5) Hon. Nimal Palihena presented a petition dated 08.01.2025 from Mr. R. M. T. Abeysinghe of Kunugonewa, Galen Bindunu Wewa.

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

5. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act: The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment 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 Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989, as amended, relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/42 of 31st January 2025, which was presented on 08.05.2025, be approved.

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

The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.24 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment (Gazette Notification No. 2430/2025 on Settlement of Land):

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

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.00 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.