



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 77.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, August 21, 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. (Prof.) 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.) 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 Vidyarthna**, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure
- Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe**, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development
- Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi**, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
- Hon. Sunil Handunnetti**, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development
- 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. 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. 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.) Madhura Senevirathna**, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education
- Hon. Arun Hemachandra**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment
- Hon. Nalin Hewage**, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education
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Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
Hon. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera 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. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa 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. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana

Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Nishantha 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. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
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. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth

Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
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. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
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
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Riyas Farook

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 three petitions filed at the Supreme Court in terms of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Presidents’ Entitlements (Repeal)’, in addition to the receipt of three petitions mentioned in my announcement dated 19 August 2025.”

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

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XLIV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part XLVII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023; and
- (iii) Third Installment – Parts II and III and Ninth Installment – Part II 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 Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Agreement between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments, entered into on 12th February 2025 and moved that Agreement be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Swamy Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka for the year 2023 and moved that Report and Accounts be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

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 Sri Lanka Air Force for the year 2024 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Railway Department for the year 2024 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the Annual Report of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited for the year 2022/2023 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Ocean View Development Company Private Limited for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year 2024 and moved that 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) Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Report of the Committee on the Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Railway Department for the year 2023 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development, Construction and Housing presented the Report of the Committee on the Regulations made by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing under Section 58 read with Section 52(2) and Sections 35(1), (2) and (4) of the Construction Industry Development Act No. 33 of 2014 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2430/13 of 01st April 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. Kabir Hashim presented a petition dated 06.06.2025 from Mrs. P.S. Sirimali Shanthi Fernando and thirteen others of No. 5 A, Heenwerella Road, Uthuwankanda, Mawanella.
- (2) Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena presented a petition dated 10.03.2025 from Mr. W. M. G. P. Weerathunga of Rumesh House, Behind the School, Yudaganawa Colony, Buththala.
- (3) Hon. Chathura Galappaththi presented a petition dated 08.05.2025 from Mr. K. A. Mahinda of No. 01, Saravi Arachchige Watta, Aluthkade, Colombo 12.
- (4) Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 16.03.2025 from Mrs. B. G. Seelawathie of No. 311/5, 4th Lane, Jayamalapura, Gampola; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 28.03.2025 from Mrs. K. G. Bisomenike of 'Nisala', Weligampala, Nawalapitiya.
- (5) Hon. Padmasiri Bandara presented a petition dated 25.04.2025 from (Mrs.) D. J. Wijethunga of 78/1/2, Deke Ela, New Town Road, Polonnaruwa.
- (6) Hon. Thilina Samarakoon presented a petition dated 05.04.2025 from Mrs. K. A. Liyanage of No 89, Palugaswewa Farm, Vijithapura.
- (7) Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera presented a petition dated 06.04.2025 from Mrs. K. P. Mallika Pathirana of No. 95/1, Poththewela, Hakmana.
- (8) Hon. Dewananda Suraweera presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 30.04.2025 from Mr. S. A. Dharmadasa of No. 383/7/B, Thalapathpitiya Road, Nugegoda; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 07.04.2025 from Mr. S. Udakandage of No 39, Ananda Maiythree Mawatha, Maharagama.

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

5. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance: 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 Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 05.08.2025, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2434/02 of 28th April 2025)

(At 11.26 a.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 11.54 a.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

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

(At 1.51 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Women and Child Affairs moved,—That Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.50 p.m. Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

The Minister of Women and Child Affairs moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.37 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Order under the Excise (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 Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989, as amended, relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2434/04 of 28th April 2025, which was presented on 05.08.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulation under the Finance 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 Regulation made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 19 read with Section 51 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2434/05 of 28th April 2025, which was presented on 05.08.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Regulations under the Construction Industry Development Act: The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing under Section 58 read with Section 52(2) and Sections 35(1), (2) and (4) of the Construction Industry Development Act, No. 33 of 2014 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2430/13 of 01st April 2025, which were presented on 05.08.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Government's Initiative Towards an Inclusive Digital Economy): The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.38 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, August 22, 2025.