



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 81.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, September 11, 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. 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. (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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Namal Karunaratne, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation
Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Urban Development
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 Mulaffer, Deputy Minister of National Integration
Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation
Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media
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. P. Ruwan Senarath, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
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

Hon. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
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. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
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. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. 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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
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. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
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. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara

Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bayanandarajah
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. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
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. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth

Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
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. (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. 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 announcement:—

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill titled ‘Presidents’ Entitlements (Repeal)’ on 10th of September 2025 in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

2. Presentation of Papers: The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Fourth Installment – Part XXIV of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2023; and
- (ii) First Installment – Parts V, VI and VII and Fourth 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the Report of the Committee on Annual Report of the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation for the year 2018 which was referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Eranga Gunasekara presented a petition dated 07.05.2025 from Mr. D.R.D. Gunawardena of No. 422/1A, Polgahakamatha, Dalugama, Kelaniya.
- (2) Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 16.06.2025 from Mrs. J.M. Pamoda Dewmini Jayasundara of 'Darshana', Kudalgamuwa, Kurunegala; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 19.05.2025 from Mr. R.M.S.G. Wijekoon Bamunawala of Samagi Mawatha, Maraluwawaththa, Maraluwawa, Kurunegala.
- (3) Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri presented a petition dated 27.05.2025 from Mr. Ajith Siriwardhana of No. 844/1, Isipathana Place, Polonnaruwa.
- (4) Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya presented a petition dated 10.03.2025 from Mr. C.H.K. Maheenatha of 'Sekkuwe Gedara', Holombuwa, Thunthota.
- (5) Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera presented a petition dated 28.03.2025 from Mr. W. G. Sunil Jayarathna of 'Dewmini', Ilukketiya, Wanchawala.

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

Suspension of Sittings

At 9.51 a.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 10.05 a.m.

At 10.05 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

5. National Audit (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Women and Child Affairs on behalf of the Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.45 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 1.49 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.33 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 were agreed to.

Clause 6

Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed an amendment to leave out line 14, in page 3 and substitute the following:—

“any deficiency or loss due to fraud, advertent negligence, corruption”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed another amendment to leave out line 24, in page 5 and substitute the following:—

“thereof, of the following new subsections:-

(5) The Surcharge Review Committee appointed under section 21 shall bi-annually publish in the website of the National Audit Office established under section 29, a report that includes the following information:-

- (a) the number of recommendations received from the Auditor-General under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) to impose a surcharge;
- (b) the number of recommendations reviewed by the Surcharge Review Committee, including a breakdown of the number of surcharges imposed, recommendations varied and decisions pending;
- (c) a statement of the surcharge imposed and actual surcharge collected for that reporting period, which the Surcharge Review Committee shall obtain from the relevant Chief Accounting Officer or Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers, as the case may be, which shall include the following:-
 - (i) the auditee entities that have failed to collect such payment within the stipulated period, including details of any applicable interest as per paragraph (d) of subsection (3); and
 - (ii) the number of recovery actions that have been initiated by the Surcharge Review Committee as per section 23(1).”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 7 was agreed to.

Clause 8

Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 30 in page 7:—

“(7) A member of the Surcharge Review Committee shall submit to the Constitutional Council a general disclosure of his interests as at the date of such appointment before assuming office as such member.

(8) A member of the Surcharge Review Committee who is directly or indirectly interested in any matter that is to be taken up before the Surcharge Review Committee shall disclose the nature of such interest to the Surcharge Review Committee and shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Surcharge Review Committee with regard to that matter.”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 14 were agreed to.

Clause 15

Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 2 in page 14:—

“(1) by the insertion immediately before the definition
“any person authorized by the Auditor-General”
of the following new definition:-

“advertent negligence” means an act or
conduct where there is an
awareness of the unreasonable
risk involved but the person
engaging in the act or conduct still
fails to take reasonable care to avoid
it;”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 16 was agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

6. Supplementary Sum,— Head 123— Programme 02: The Minister of Women and Child Affairs on behalf of the Minister of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing moved,— † That this Parliament resolves that a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Thirteen Billion Two Hundred Eighty-Five Million Six Hundred Thousand (Rs. 13,285,600,000) shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, or out of any other fund belonging to the Government, or out of any money, or out of any loan obtained by the Government at the discretion of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the services of the financial year commencing on 01st January, 2025, and ending on 31st December, 2025, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the schedule hereto:—

SCHEDULE

Head 123	-	Minister of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing	
Programme 02	-	Development Activities	
		Capital Expenditure	Rs. 13,285,600,000
		Total Expenditure	Rs. 13,285,600,000

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 1 of 2025 presented on 22nd August, 2025

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Supplementary Sum,— Head 171— Programme 02: The Minister of Women and Child Affairs moved,— † That this Parliament resolves that an additional sum not exceeding Rupees one thousand five hundred million (Rs. 1,500,000,000) shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, or any other fund or finances possessed by the Government or any loan obtained by the Government at the discretion of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the services of the financial year commencing on 01st January, 2025, and ending on 31st December, 2025, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the schedule hereto:—

SCHEDULE

Head 171	-	Minister of Women and Child Affairs	
Programme 02	-	Development Activities	
		Recurrent Expenditure	Rs. 1,500,000,000
		Total Expenditure	Rs. 1,500,000,000

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 2 of 2025 presented on 22nd August, 2025

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment: The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.44 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, September 12, 2025.