



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 86.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, September 26, 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. (Dr.) Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment

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. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence
Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports
Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security
and Community Empowerment
Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation
Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media
Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing
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. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
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. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Mano Ganesan
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. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
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. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya

Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
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. 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. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Second Installment – Part XLIX of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2023; and
- (ii) Second Installment – Parts IX and X, Third Installment – Parts VII and VIII and Ninth Installment – Part V 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 Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon for the year 2024 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Report on the submission of 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 Digital Economy in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Department of Motor Traffic in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented —

- (i) A petition dated 06.07.2025 from Mrs. H.B. Mallika of Balagewatta, Kirimatomulla, Thelijjawila;
- (ii) A petition dated 02.06.2025 from Mr. J.L.H. Ajith Sudasinghe of 5th Post, Ruhunu Ridiyagama, Ambalanthota;
- (iii) A petition dated 06.07.2025 from Mrs. K.H. Chandralatha of Balagewatta, Kirimatomulla, Thelijjawila; and
- (iv) A petition dated 25.01.2025 from Mr. Pemasiri Andrahennadi of Linda Gawa Watta, Godellawela, Tangalle.

(2) Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi presented a petition dated 23.06.2025 from Mr. B.C.P. Wijethilaka of No 227/01, Temple Road, Bangalawatta,, Kottawa, Pannipitiya.

(3) Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi presented a petition dated 01.03.2025 from Mr. D.G. Jayasena of No 132/1, Kolhena, Morahenagama, Hatton.

(4) Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody presented—

- (i) A petition dated 10.06.2025 from Mr. G. Amarananda Ariyaratna of No. 125/3, Pethiyagoda, Gampaha; and
- (ii) A petition dated 27.03.2025 from Mr. G. C. K. R. F. S. Opatha of No. 235/A/1, Opatha, Kotugoda.

(5) Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake presented a petition dated 19.06.2025 from Mr. Priyantha Udaya Kumara of No 43, 5/1, Peeterson Road, Wellawatta, Colombo 06.

(6) Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya presented —

(i) A petition dated 26.05.2025 from Mr. P. T. Jayasiri Weerasinghe of Kandegedara, Dewalegama; and

(ii) A petition dated 25.06.2025 from Mr. R.M.U.G. Chaminda Rathnayake of Happawara, Lemasooriyagama, Illagolla.

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

3. Appropriation: 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 presented,— Bill to provide for the service of the financial year 2026; to authorize the raising of loans in or outside Sri Lanka, for the purpose of such service; to make financial provision in respect of certain activities of the Government during that financial year; to enable the payment by way of advances out of the Consolidated Fund or any other fund or moneys, of or at the disposal of the Government, of moneys required during that financial year for expenditure on such activities; to provide for the refund of such moneys to the Consolidated Fund and to make provision for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Friday, October 10, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

4. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 11.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Parliament: Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera, seconded by Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya moved,— That the following amendment to the existing Standing Orders of the Parliament made in terms of Standing Order 137 of the Parliament be agreed to:—

That the following new paragraph be inserted immediately after the first paragraph of the existing Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament :—

If the Committee on Public Enterprises, in examining the reports presented to the Committee by the Auditor - General, comes to the conclusion that serious financial frauds or acts of corruption have occurred, the Committee may refer such matters directly to the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption or to the Inspector - General of Police for taking legal action regarding such matters. (P. 85/2025)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment (Fourth Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 11.41 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi, seconded by Hon. Dinesh Hemantha moved,— That Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.55 p.m. Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi took the Chair.)

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

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 07, 2025.