



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 90.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, October 10, 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.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

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 Finance and Planning

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. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe, Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply

Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development 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. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne, Deputy Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Arkam Ilyas, Deputy Minister of Power

Hon. Namal Karunaratne, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

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

Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways

Hon. Nishantha Jayaweera, Deputy Minister of Economic Development

Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour

Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence

Hon. Muneer Mulafter, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism

Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply

Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education

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. J.C. Alawathuwala

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

Hon. K. Ilankumaran

Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Chaminda Lalith 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. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera

Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
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. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilaka
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna, Attorney at Law
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri

Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Acting 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:—

“Honourable Members,

I wish to deliver my ruling on the matter of privilege raised by the Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekera, Attorney at Law, Member of Parliament, on the 7th of October 2025, as the issue raised concerns the privileges of Parliament as a whole, in terms of Standing Order 29(1) of Parliament. The Honourable Member alleged that the Leader of the House had misled the Constitutional Council during the process of nominating a candidate to the post of Director General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) on 24th October 2024, thereby committing a breach of privilege under Section 4 of Schedule “A” to the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act. The Hon. Member therefore requested that the matter be referred to the Committee on Parliamentary Privileges for investigation.

Having carefully considered the matter, I now proceed to give my ruling.

Nature of the Constitutional Council

The first issue that requires determination is whether the Constitutional Council (CC) is a Committee of Parliament, so as to attract the application of the provisions of the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act.

Under Article 41A of the Constitution, the Constitutional Council is established as a distinct and independent constitutional body. It consists of the Prime Minister, the Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, one Member of Parliament nominated by the President, and several other Members who are either *ex-officio* or civil society or appointed by the President on the nomination of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

It is thus not a Parliamentary Committee established under the Standing Orders of Parliament. The Constitutional Council functions under the Constitution itself, and not under the authority of Parliament or its Standing Orders. Therefore, any proceedings or decisions of the Constitutional Council cannot be regarded as proceedings of Parliament or of a Committee of Parliament within the meaning of the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act.

Applicability of Section 4 of Schedule 'A' to the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act

Section 4 of Schedule 'A' to the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act provides for offences in relation to the misleading of Parliament or a Committee of Parliament. Since, as I have already stated, the Constitutional Council is not a Committee of Parliament, the said provision does not apply to the acts or deliberations of the Constitutional Council.

Accordingly, even if it is alleged that a Member of Parliament made an incorrect or misleading statement before the Constitutional Council, such conduct would not fall within the ambit of a breach of parliamentary privilege as contemplated by Section 4 of Schedule A of the said Act.

Finality of Decisions of the Constitutional Council

Furthermore, Article 41J of the Constitution explicitly provides that the decisions of the Constitutional Council are final and conclusive, and shall not be called in question in any court or tribunal, except by way of an application made to the Supreme Court under Article 126 of the Constitution alleging a violation of fundamental rights.

I am informed that, in relation to the said appointment, three Fundamental Rights applications were indeed filed before the Supreme Court, naming the Members of the Constitutional Council as Respondents. It is also noted that those applications have subsequently been withdrawn by the Petitioners without proceeding further.

This confirms that the proper constitutional mechanism to challenge the decision of the Constitutional Council lies before the Supreme Court, not within the forum of Parliament.

Ruling

In view of the foregoing, I am of the considered opinion that:

1. The Constitutional Council is not a Committee of Parliament but a distinct body established under Article 41A of the Constitution.
2. The provisions of Section 4 of Schedule A to the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act are therefore inapplicable to its proceedings.
3. The allegation made by the Honourable Member does not disclose any matter of breach of parliamentary privilege.
4. Any grievance or challenge concerning the decisions of the Constitutional Council must be pursued only through the constitutional remedy available under Article 126 of the Constitution.

Accordingly, I rule that no question of privilege arises in this matter, and hence, the issue raised by the Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekera, Attorney at Law, MP, will not be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the First Installment – Parts X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV and XV, Fourth Installment – Part V and Sixth Installment – Parts I, II, III and IV 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 Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Speaker presented the Tenth Installment of the Report of the Auditor-General of the —

- (i) Special Audit Report on Online Visa issuance methodology of the Department of Immigration and Emigration;
- (ii) Special Audit Report regarding the Amounts due to the Government from the Medical Officers who are on Vacated Post and the Attachment of Foreign-trained Specialist Medical Officers; and
- (iii) Special Audit Report on the requirement, procurement, supply, distribution and regulation of medicines in the years 2022 and 2023 (Part two)

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) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Second Installment – Part LXIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part LXVI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022;
- (iii) Second Installment – Part XLVIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023; and

- (iv) Second Installment – Parts VIII, XII, XIII, XIV and XV, Third Installment – Parts X, XI, XII and XIII and Ninth Installment – Parts VI and VII 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.

(4) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for the year 2022 and moved that that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Language Education and Training for the year 2023 and moved that that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the year 2024 and moved that that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake, the Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Dr.) Anil Jayantha, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Manpower and Employment for the year 2023;
- (ii) The Annual Performance Report of the Department of Labour for the year 2023;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment for the year 2022;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Employees' Provident Fund for the year 2022; and
- (v) Annual Report of the Shrama Vasana Fund for the year 2023

which were referred to the 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 16.06.2025 from Mr. D.H. Thilak Deshapriya of Ransiri Uyana, Ranapanadeniya, Rathgama;

- (ii) A petition dated 15.06.2025 from Mr. Nipul Waduge of No. 13, Oropu Watta, Deewara Niwasa, Pitiwella; and
- (iii) A petition dated 08.06.2025 from Mr. U.K. Wijesiri of Heenatigala South, Kandewatta, Thalpe.
- (2) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented a petition dated 09.06.2025 from Mrs. Chandrika De Silva of No. 19/3 E, Dalada watta Lane, Thalpitaya South, Wadduwa.
- (3) Hon. M.K.M. Aslam presented a petition dated 30.06.2025 from Mr. P.A. Lalith Francis of Lihiniwehera Janapadaya, Dodamgaslanda.
- (4) Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 16.06.2025 from Mr. J.H. Gamini Keerthirathne of No. 15, Rawum Road, Pothupitiya North, Wadduwa; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 16.06.2025 from Mr. Nadeep Kavinda Silva of No. 12 H, Police Housing, Maradana, Colombo 10.
- (5) Hon. E.M. Basnayaka presented a petition dated 06.06.2025 from Mr. J. Jamaldeen of No. 13, Galadeniya Madige, Udathalawinna.
- (6) Hon. Danushka Ranganath presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 13.06.2025 from Mrs. A.M. Baby Nona of Pasal Mawatha, Magurumasvila, Walallavita;
 - (ii) A petition dated 19.05.2025 from Mr. B.L. Abhayapala of Hedigalla Colony, Baduraliya; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 07.04.2025 from Mr. K.T. Piyasena of No. 46, Gallena Mulla, Pelawatta.
- (7) Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya presented a petition dated 15.06.2025 from Mr. K. Jayantha Kumara of No. C/174, Ambulugala Road, Dehimaduwa, Mawanella.

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

5. Business of the Parliament: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of 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.

6. Sittings of the Parliament: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of 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 3.30 p.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.

7. Privileges: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Nalin Hewage, M.P. on 09th July, 2025 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.12 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

8. Continuing the construction work of Ruwanpura Expressway: Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi, seconded by Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take necessary measures to carry out the construction work of Ruwanpura Expressway continuously at least in phases since not only the people living in Ratnapura district but also in Badulla and Hambanthota districts will be benefitted from the construction of the Expressway as it would help gain immense benefits despite the economic difficulties the country is currently experiencing. (P. 7/2024)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Designation of the ecosystem comprising the towns of Pitigala, Udugama, Neluwa and Deniyaya as a tourist zone: Hon. T.K. Jayasundara, seconded by Hon. Lal Premanath moved,— That this Parliament resolves that, since the country's tourism industry is contributing to increasing domestic revenue in a situation where Sri Lanka has entered a new era of renaissance, necessary steps be taken by the government to designate the ecosystem comprising the towns of Pitigala, Udugama, Neluwa and Deniyaya as a tourist zone and develop it since this area encompasses the Sinharaja Forest, a world heritage site among the low-country rain forests of Sri Lanka and the Kanneliya forest, which are home to unique species of flora & fauna, and the biosystem of Hiniduma mountain (Haycock), which is an ecosystem that has attracted special attention of foreign tourists. (P. 40/2025)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Integrating law and ethics to the school curriculum: Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama, seconded by Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna, Attorney at Law moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the government do take necessary action to integrate lessons on the basic law of the country to the Citizen Education syllabus of school children from Grade 6 to Grade 11 while preventing the school curriculum from turning complex as the lack of awareness in the basic law necessary for the day-to-day life has been identified as a major cause for problems faced by the general public of this country, and as ignorance of the law does not become an excuse before the law. (P. 42/2025)

The Deputy Minister of Mass Media moved,—That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.46 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Formulating a programme for the proper functioning of the National Drug Quality Assurance Laboratory: Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana, seconded by Hon. Hector Appuhamy moved,— That this Parliament resolves that, whereas the National Drug Quality Assurance Laboratory was established about 35 years ago, whereas the laboratory is not functioning properly at present, and as a consequence a large number of imported drugs are not subjected to proper quality testing, and therefore, a proper course of action be formulated to overcome this situation. (P. 46/2025)

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Initiation of an insurance scheme for the farming community: Hon. Rohana Bandara, seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka moved,— That this Parliament resolves that an insurance scheme be established for the farming community, who constitute the majority of the people of this country, as it is the responsibility of a government to ensure the welfare of the farming community of a country. (P. 47/2025)

The Minister of Environment moved,—That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.06 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Adjournment (Upholding Independence of National Police Commission): The Minister of Environment moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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 21, 2025.