



*(Tenth Parliament - First Session)*

No. 91.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, October 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

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**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. K.D. Lal Kantha**, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

**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 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. (Mrs.) Saroja Savithri Paulraj**, Minister of Women and Child Affairs

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

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

**Hon. Arkam Ilyas**, Deputy Minister of Power

**Hon. Namal Karunaratne**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

**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 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. Nishantha Jayaweera**, Deputy Minister of Economic Development

**Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe**, Deputy Minister of Labour

**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 Religious and Cultural Affairs

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

**Hon. Eranga Weeraratne**, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

**Hon. Upali Samarasingha**, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

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

**Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana**, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs

**Hon. Aravinda Senarath**, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation

**Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake**, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

**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. Aboobucker Athambawa**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Hector Appuhamy**  
**Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana**  
**Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe**  
**Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala**  
**Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi**  
**Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika**  
**Hon. K. Ilankumaran**  
**Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe**  
**Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka**  
**Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi**  
**Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC**  
**Hon. Upul Kithsiri**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan**  
**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. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani**  
**Hon. Mano Ganesan**  
**Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage**  
**Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage**  
**Hon. Chathura Galappaththi**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha**  
**Hon. Ashoka Gunasena**  
**Hon. D. V. Chanaka**  
**Hon. Gayan Janaka**

**Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody**  
**Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Dilith Jayaweera**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. T.K. Jayasundara**  
**Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran**  
**Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy**  
**Hon. M.A.M. Thahir**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Chandana Thennakoon**  
**Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake**  
**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. 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. Rishad Bathiudeen**  
**Hon. Sudath Balagalla**  
**Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah**  
**Hon. E.M. Basnayaka**  
**Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake**  
**Hon. Sunil Biyanwila**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe**  
**Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga**  
**Hon. Jagath Manuwarna**  
**Hon. S.M. Marikkar**  
**Hon. K. Kader Masthan**  
**Hon. Imran Maharoof**  
**Hon. Chanaka Madugoda**  
**Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala**  
**Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC**  
**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. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe**  
**Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala**  
**Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran**  
**Hon. Mujibur Rahman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage**  
**Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth**  
**Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya**  
**Hon. R.G. Wijerathna**

**Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera**  
**Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe**  
**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. 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**  
**Hon. Dinesh Hemantha**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Riyas Farook**

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. Presentation of Papers:** (1) The Speaker presented the Second Installment – Parts XVI and XVII, Third Installment – Part XIV and Ninth Installment – Part VIII 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 Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report of the Welfare Benefits Board for the year 2022 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 Annual Report of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the year 2023 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the University of Colombo Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Performance Reports of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for the Fourth Quarter of the year 2024 and the First and Second Quarters of the year 2025 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Rules made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) regarding the time period for payment of duty on the production of liquor and levying of fee on 05<sup>th</sup> September 2025; and
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2451/10 of 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025

and moved that Rules and the Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development upon the recommendations of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers under Section 53 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2445/02 of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development upon the recommendations of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers under Section 53 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2445/03 of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development upon the recommendations of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers under Section 53 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2445/04 of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025; and
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development upon the recommendations of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers under Section 53 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2445/05 of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

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

(8) The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Labour 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.

(9) The Minister of Women and Child Affairs 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 Probation and Child Care Services 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 Reports from Committees:** (1) Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayatissa, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health and Mass Media presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Health and Mass Media under Section 142 read with Section 118(4) of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act, No. 5 of 2015 in consultation with the Pricing Committee of National Medicines Regulatory Authority established under the aforementioned Act, Consumer Affairs Authority established under the provisions of the Consumer Affairs Authority Act, No. 9 of 2003 and all stakeholders and taking into consideration all other relevant factors including the provisions of the Consumer Affairs Authority Act, No. 9 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2446/34 of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025;
- (ii) Annual Report of the 1990 Suwasariya Foundation for the year 2023; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital and Postgraduate Medical Training Centre for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited for the year 2022; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Printing for the year 2024

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Science, Technology and Digital Transformation presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual reports of the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021;
- (ii) Annual report of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2022;
- (iii) Annual reports of the Industrial Technology Institute for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021;

- (iv) Annual report of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year 2021;
- (v) Annual report of the National Engineering Research and Development Centre of Sri Lanka for the year 2021; and
- (vi) Annual report of the National Research Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

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

### **3. Presentation of Public Petitions:**

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) Rizvie Salih presented a petition dated 09.08.2025 from Mr. M.A. Nishshanka Bandara of No B1/G2, Maradana Road, Colombo 10.
- (2) Hon. Nalin Hewage presented —
  - (i) A petition dated 29.05.2025 from Mr. Berty Duncan Abeyweera of No. 33/1, A.G. Gunarathne Mawatha, Maitipe, Galle; and
  - (ii) A petition dated 22.04.2025 from Mr. D.D. Janaka Amarasinghe of Sri Anomadassi Mawatha, Dikkela, Batapola.
- (3) Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi presented a petition dated 12.06.2025 from Mr. H.G. Piyal Weerasinghe of Gonawala, Ginigathhena.
- (4) Hon. Dilith Jayaweera presented a petition dated 16.06.2025 from Mr. R.B. Janaka Suranga of No. 76/3, Galawatta, Bandirippuwa, Lunuwila.
- (5) Hon. Aruna Panagoda presented a petition dated 05.02.2025 from Mr. K.A.S.C. Kumarasinghe of No. 09, Mabulgoda, Pannipitiya.
- (6) Hon. Stepni Fernando presented a petition dated 16.06.2025 from Mrs. E.H.A.K. Ramanayeka of No 15/L/A, Aluthgama, Pituwalgoda, Yakkala.
- (7) Hon. Dewananda Suraweera presented a petition dated 02.05.2025 from Mr. S. Guruge of No. 29, Nandana Gardens, Yahanpath Mawatha, Maharagama.

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

**4. Betting and Gaming Levy (Amendment):** The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented,— Bill to amend the Betting and Gaming Levy Act, No. 40 of 1988.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Friday, November 07, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

**5. Regulations under the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act:** The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Health and Mass Media under Section 142 read with Section 118(4) of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act, No. 5 of 2015 in consultation with the Pricing Committee of National Medicines Regulatory Authority established under the aforementioned Act, Consumer Affairs Authority established under the provisions of the Consumer Affairs Authority Act, No. 9 of 2003 and all stakeholders and taking into consideration all other relevant factors including the provisions of the Consumer Affairs Authority Act, No. 9 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2446/34 of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025, which were presented on 07.10.2025, be approved.

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

The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,—That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.35 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.07 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

(At 4.31 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

**6. Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill:** Considered in the Committee.

Parliament resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 9 were agreed to.

Clause 10

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Digital Economy proposed an amendment to leave out line 20, in page 8 and substitute the following:—

“may engage in”;

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

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Digital Economy proposed another amendment to leave out lines 14 to 17 (both inclusive), in page 9 and substitute the following:—

“(f) the transfer constitutes only a transit of personal data through Sri Lanka; or

(g) such processing is permitted under”;

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 11

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Digital Economy proposed an amendment to leave out line 6, in page 10 and substitute the following:—

“specified in this Act, including the sectoral guidelines referred to in paragraph (o) of section 33, formulated by the advisory committees and approved by the Authority and the matters”.

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 12 to 15 were agreed to.

#### New Clauses

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Digital Economy proposed to insert the following new Clause immediately after line 8 in page 10:—

“Amendment of section 52 of the principal enactment amended in subsection (2) thereof, by the substitution for the words “within twenty-four months” of the words “within thirty six months”.”.

Question that the Clause be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Question that the Clause be added to the Bill, put and 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 Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Digital Economy 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.

**7. Adjournment (Implementation of the “Climate Prosperity Plan”):** 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 5.53 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.