



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 107.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, November 21, 2025 at 9.00 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. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

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

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. (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 and Urban Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Ananda Wijepala, Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

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. 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. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources
Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Urban Development
Hon. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment
Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence
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 Religious and Cultural Affairs
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.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs
Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
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. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
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. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam

Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairosa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam

Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law
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 this House that the guidelines, prepared in all three languages enabling Honourable Members of Parliament to formulate Questions for Oral Answers in a more formal and systematic manner, and approved by the Committee on Parliamentary Business at its meeting held on 18th November 2025, have been kept on the Table for the information of Honourable Members.

Accordingly, I kindly request Honourable Members to adhere to these guidelines when submitting Questions for Oral Answers in the future.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 20 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2459/46 of 24th October 2025 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Annual Reports of the Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited for the years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government 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 Uva Provincial Council in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual Report of the Jaya Container Terminals Limited for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law presented —

- (i) A petition dated 21.09.2025 from Mr. A.M.H.K. Alagiyawanna of No 16, Baduwatta, Narangaspitiya, Kirindiwela; and
- (ii) A petition dated 10.10.2025 from Mr. W.P. Vijitha Perera of No 17/3, First Lane, Lakshapathiya Road, Rawathawatta, Moratuwa.

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

4. Appropriation Bill—(Twelfth Allotted Day): Considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 124

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.22 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 3.11 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 4.09 p.m. Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran took the Chair.)

(At 5.15 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment proposed an amendment on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to leave out lines 11 and 12 in page 24 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent	27,488,500,000
Capital	34,203,000,000”

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

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

Question that the sum of Rs. 280,700,000 for Head 124, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 25,500,000 for Head 124, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 16 in page 24 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 1,746,200,000 29,774,000,000”

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

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

Head 216

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 131,900,000 for Head 216, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 17,100,000 for Head 216, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,697,900,000 for Head 216, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 637,400,000 for Head 216, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 331

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 645,200,000 for Head 331, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 19,000,000 for Head 331, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 22,986,600,000 for Head 331, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,730,000,000 for Head 331, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 03 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 7,500,000,000”

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

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

Head 149

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,453,800,000 for Head 149, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 175,700,000 for Head 149, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 07 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 3,655,200,000 7,243,700,000”

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

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

Head 303

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 391,000,000 for Head 303, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 80,600,000 for Head 303, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Whereupon the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development proposed that the Chair do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question put and agreed

Committee report progress; to sit again on Saturday November 22, 2025.

5. Adjournment (Improvement of Facilities for Salt Production in Kinniya DS Division): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put and agreed to; Parliament was at 6.15 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.00 a.m. on Saturday, November 22, 2025 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 13th November, 2025.