



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 110.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, November 25, 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.) 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.) 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. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. K.V. Samantha Viddyaratna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

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. (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. 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. 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. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports
Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure
Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism
Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health
Hon. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy
Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply
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. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
Hon. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
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. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
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. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
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. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman

Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
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. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
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. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
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. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha
Hon. Muhammad Faizal

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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Presentation of Papers: The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented the Annual Report of the Chilaw Plantations Limited for the year 2022 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Appropriation Bill—(Fifteenth Allotted Day): Considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Head 126

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

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

(At 2.05 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

(At 3.08 p.m. Hon. M.K.M. Aslam took the Chair.)

(At 5.09 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

(At 6.11 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 8 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent 233,850,000,000”

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.

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 41,948,000,000 for Head 126, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 6,739,000,000 for Head 126, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 13 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 91,311,000,000 51,352,000,000”

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 212

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 11,815,000,000 for Head 212, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 862,000,000 for Head 212, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 213

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 137,000,000 for Head 213, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 34,000,000 for Head 213, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 214

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 19 in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 85,000,000,000 10,500,000,000”

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 215

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 485,700,000 for Head 215, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 109,800,000 for Head 215, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 3,076,300,000 for Head 215, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 391,200,000 for Head 215, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 335

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 77,000,000 for Head 335, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 12,000,000 for Head 335, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

At 6.40 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.

3. Annual Report of the University of Ruhuna (2022): The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the University of Ruhuna 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 17.12.2024 under Section 110 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Annual Report of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka (2022): The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 07.01.2025 under Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Annual Report of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (2022): The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 18.02.2025 under Section 110 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya (2023): The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya 2023 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2023 and presented on 07.01.2025 under Section 110 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report of the University of Peradeniya (2023): The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Annual Report of the University of Peradeniya 2023 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2023 and presented on 22.02.2025 under Section 110 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 and Section II of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment: And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.43 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 13th November, 2025.