



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 111.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, November 26, 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. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

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. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law, Minister of Justice and National Integration

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

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. Nishantha Jayaweera, Deputy Minister of Economic Development

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. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

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. 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. Aravinda Senarath, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation

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

Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana

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. B. Ariyawansha
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee 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. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Chathura 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. 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. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake

Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kins Nelson
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. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
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. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law

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. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
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 Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“Hon. Members,

I wish to inform this House that, as per the request made by the Hon. Members to adopt in giving the opportunity to debate Private Members' Motions the same methodology based on which Questions for Oral Answers are currently Scheduled in the Order Paper in order to ensure that all the Members who have submitted Private Members' Motions get equal opportunities when giving opportunities to debate such motions in the House, the new methodology that has been prepared on the approval of the Committee on Parliamentary Business was carefully considered at the meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Business held on 18.11.2025 and it was decided by the Committee to implement the said new methodology from January 2026.

I also wish to inform this House that, opportunities will be given to debate Private Members' Motions following the said new methodology from the month of January 2026 for which Private Members' Motions have been scheduled to be taken up next, and that, as per the proposed new methodology, based on the number of motions that will be determined by the Committee to be taken up for the first day, motions for debate will be selected according to the chronological order in which the motions submitted by the Hon. Members have been entered in the Order Book / Addendum to the Order Book by the time of such selection, and when selecting Motions for the day that will be allocated for Private Members' Motions in the next month, the Hon. Members who have submitted motions next according to the chronological order will be given the opportunity. I wish to further inform this House that, if Hon. Members who have submitted motions state which of the motions that appear under their name they prefer to take up first or to which priority should be given, it would also be taken into consideration when selecting motions for debate.

Accordingly, I highly appreciate the cooperation extended by all the Hon. Members of Parliament in successfully implementing the said new methodology, which has been proposed with a view to giving equal opportunities to all the Hon. Members who have submitted Private Members' Motions”

2. Presentation of Papers: 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 under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2457/05 of 09th October 2025; and
- (ii) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2457/06 of 09th October 2025)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

Hon. K.V. Samantha Vidyarthna presented a petition dated 09.06.2025 from Mr. K.M. Manawasinghe Bandara of No 48/19, Hospital Road, Wewathenna, Bandarawela.

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

4. Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented,— Bill to provide for the establishment of the Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka; to regulate the moneylending business and the microfinance business; to provide protection for the customers of the moneylending business and the microfinance business; to repeal the Microfinance Act, No. 6 of 2016; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

5. Appropriation Bill—(Sixteenth Allotted Day): Considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 151

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.36 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 2.19 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

(At 3.06 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

(At 4.00 p.m. Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi took the Chair.)

(At 5.04 p.m. Hon. M.K.M. Aslam took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 12 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“Capital 7,700,000,000”

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. 460,800,000 for Head 151, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 104,800,000 for Head 151, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 16 in page 32 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 2,381,500,000 7,209,800,000”

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 290

The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 02 in page 33 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 01 Operational Activities 1,257,700,000 385,400,000”

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.

Ministry of Science and Technology

The Minister of Science and Technology on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out lines 2 and 3 in page 37 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent	3,170,000,000
Capital	3,600,000,000”

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 196

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 218,000,000 for Head 196, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 27,000,000 for Head 196, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Science and Technology proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 in page 37 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 2,952,000,000 3,573,000,000”

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.

Ministry of Digital Economy

The Minister of Science and Technology on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 12 in page 34 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent 6,400,000,000”

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 186

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 241,500,000 for Head 186, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 25,000,000 for Head 186, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Science and Technology on behalf of the Minister of Digital Economy proposed an amendment to leave out line 17 in page 34 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 3,812,500,000 8,128,500,000”

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 227

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 2,346,000,000 for Head 227, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,946,500,000 for Head 227, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Whereupon the Minister of Science and Technology proposed that the Chair do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question put and agreed

Committee report progress; to sit again on Thursday, November 27, 2025

6. Adjournment (Grant of Freehold Deeds to Occupants of State Lands): The Minister of Science and Technology moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.52 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.00 a.m. on Thursday, November 27, 2025 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 13th November, 2025.