



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 112]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, November 27, 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. 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.) 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. 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. 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. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Urban Development
Hon. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment
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. (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. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy
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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
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.) 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. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
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. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Aruna Panagoda

Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
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. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
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. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
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. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
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

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 Parliament that I have appointed the following Members of Parliament under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law, to serve on the ‘Select Committee of Parliament to look into and Report to Parliament on the release of 323 Containers from the Port of Colombo without undergoing mandatory physical inspection and submit its proposals and recommendations in that regard’:—

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka
 Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe
 Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law
 Hon. Arkam Ilyas
 Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
 Hon. Ajith P. Perera
 Hon. D. V. Chanaka
 Hon. Mujibur Rahman
 Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
 Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
 Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the —

- (i) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties (Gazette Extraordinary No. 2461/40 of 07th November 2025);
- (ii) Regulation made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 6 of the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002, as amended by the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Act, No. 19 of 2019 relating to the value of goods imported and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2461/43 of 07th November 2025; and
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2461/44 of 07th November 2025

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation for the year 2021 and moved 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. Wijesiri Basnayake, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the —

- (i) Social Security Contribution Levy (Amendment) Bill;
- (ii) Betting and Gaming Levy (Amendment) Bill; and
- (iii) Regulation under Section 22 read with Section 26 of the Finance Act, No. 11 of 2004

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law presented—
- (i) A petition dated 16.07.2025 from Mrs. A.H.M.E.R. Wadigamangawa of No. 88, Uyanwatta, Hapuwala, Gunnepana;
 - (ii) A petition dated 29.07.2025 from Mrs. E.M.T. Edirisinghe of No. 82/1, Polambakotuwa, Walala, Menikhinna, Kandy; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 11.07.2025 from Mrs. K.M.N. Damayanthi Kallora of No 290/4/1/A, Pahala Lagumdeniya, Panvilathenna, Gampola.
- (2) Hon. Waruna Liyanage presented a petition dated 04.07.2025 from Mrs. U.K.S. Niwarthana Weerasinghe of No. 23, Welipathayaya, Balangoda.
- (3) Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama presented—
- (i) A petition dated 24.03.2025 from Mr. H.A. Kavindu Dilshan of No.125/3/A/1, Nakandapura, Karagoda Uyangoda, Kamburupitiya; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 15.06.2025 from Mrs. W.L. Virajini Sandamali of Etangodawatta, Akurugoda, Thihagoda.

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

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

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 118

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.46 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

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

(At 1.41 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

(At 3.01 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

(At 4.22 p.m. Hon. M.K.M. Aslam took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out lines 12 and 13 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“Recurrent	90,150,000,000
Capital	138,900,000,000”

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. 4,294,000,000 for Head 118, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 277,000,000 for Head 118, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 17 in page 21 and substitute the following:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 49,453,000,000 102,389,000,000”

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 281

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,000,000,000 for Head 281, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 90,000,000 for Head 281, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 12,107,000,000 for Head 281, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,270,000,000 for Head 281, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 282

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,066,000,000 for Head 282, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 129,000,000 for Head 282, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,086,000,000 for Head 282, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 20,609,000,000 for Head 282, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 285

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 837,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 73,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 7,037,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,413,000,000 for Head 285, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 286

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 804,000,000 for Head 286, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 126,000,000 for Head 286, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 287

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 986,000,000 for Head 287, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 38,000,000 for Head 287, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 288

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 389,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 179,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 4,983,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 652,000,000 for Head 288, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 289

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,230,000,000 for Head 289, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,492,000,000 for Head 289, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 292

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 1,040,000,000 for Head 292, Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 98,000,000 for Head 292, Programme 01 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out

“Programme 02 Development Activities - 3,697,000,000”

line 3 in page 23 and substitute the following:—

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 327

Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 688,000,000 for Head 327, Programme 02 (Recurrent Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure)

Question that the sum of Rs. 68,000,000 for Head 327, Programme 02 (Capital Expenditure), be inserted in the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

Head 337

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after line 5 in page 23:—

“Programme 02 Development Activities 150,000,000 300,000,000”

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.

At 6.06 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to Parliament.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Friday, November 28, 2025.

6. Annual Report of the Paddy Marketing Board (2017): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Paddy Marketing Board 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 20.01.2022 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Annual Report of the Paddy Marketing Board (2018): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Paddy Marketing Board 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 20.01.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Regulation of Three-Wheeler Service): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 6.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.36 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.00 a.m. on Friday, November 28, 2025 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 13th November, 2025.