



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 120.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 07, 2026 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

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. 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. 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. 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 Vidyarathna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Chaturanga Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

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. 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. 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. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence

Hon. Gamagedara Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Muneer Mulaffer, 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. (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. 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. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
Hon. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
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. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa 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. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
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. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
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. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharooof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilaka
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya

- Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna**
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srinshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
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. 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. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of Science of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2024;
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine of the University of Colombo for the year 2024; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the University of Colombo School of Computing for the year 2024.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Report on the details pertaining to “Transfers of Allocations through Virement Procedure” from 01 July 2025 to 30 September 2025, in terms of the Section 24(4) of the Public Financial Management Act, No. 44 of 2024, and the Section 5 of the Appropriation Act, No. 3 of 2025 .

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

(3) The Minister of Environment presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Private) Limited for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Environmental Authority for the year 2023

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Report of the Selacine Television Institute for the year 2023 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital .

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the report of the committee on the —

- (i) Colombo Port City Economic Commission (Amendment) Bill; and
- (ii) Regulations under Section 20 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2465/07 of December 01, 2025)

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Upul Kithsiri Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Hector Appuhamy, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of National Botanic Gardens for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Environment for the year 2024;
- (iii) Annual Reports of the State Timber Corporation for the years 2022 and 2023; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of National Zoological Gardens for the years 2023 and 2024

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law, The Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic, Development and International Relations presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Performance Reports of the Department of Imports and Exports Control for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (ii) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of National Planning for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (iii) Performance Reports of the Department of Government Valuation for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (iv) Performance Reports of the Department of External Resources for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (v) Performance Reports of the Department of Public Enterprises for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (vi) Performance Reports of the Department of Development Finance for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (vii) Performance Reports of the Department of Public Finance for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (viii) Performance Reports of the Department of Fiscal Policy for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (ix) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Census and Statistics for the years 2023 and 2024; and
- (x) Annual Performance Reports of the Sri Lanka Customs for the years 2023 and 2024

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. T. B. Sarath presented a petition dated 15.03.2025 from Mrs. G.M.S. Nanayakkara of No 316, Hathamuna, Hingurakgoda.
- (2) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented a petition dated 25.07.2025 from Mrs. N.K. Prasadini Jeewanthi Karunarathne of No 357/C, Kumbaloluwa, Weyangoda.
- (3) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 06.07.2025 from Mrs. D.G.G. Nisansala Madhumali of No. 16/65, 80 Yaya, Nugagolla, Matale;
 - (ii) A petition dated 19.07.2025 from Mrs. G.B.E.J.M. Kavindya Lakshani Jayasundara of No. 37/1, Thoragollawatta, Dombawela, Mahawela, Matale;
 - (iii) A petition dated 12.06.2025 from Mrs. I.S.A.S. Pothuhera of Hunukotuwwatta, Pannala, Aranayaka; and
 - (iv) A petition dated 23.06.2025 from Mr. S.D. Sarath Nawarathne of No. 38, Walakumbura Watta, Raithalawela, Ukuwela.
- (4) Hon. Stepni Fernando presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 07.06.2025 from Mrs. E.A.D. Malani Winifrida of No. 555, Colombo Road, Kapuwatta, Ja-Ela; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 09.06.2025 from Mr. N.G. Nandana Chandra Kumara of No.116/B, Bandigoda, Pothukotuwa, Ja-Ela.
- (5) Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 15.07.2025 from Mr. J.D. Nandana Kusumsiri Arunashantha of No B 81/1, Dunukewala, Hiriwadunna; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 02.06.2025 from Mr. S.M.G.M. Senanayaka of No 44/6, Kurunduwatta, Imbulgasdeniya, Rambukkana.

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

4. Pensions (Repeal): The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented,— Bill to repeal the Parliamentary Pensions Law, No. 1 of 1977.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

5. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 2 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Colombo Port City Economic Commission (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.33 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi proposed and Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law seconded,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.41 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning moved,—That Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.13 p.m. Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The presiding member took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 18 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act: The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Notification No. 2468/46 and dated 28th December, 2025 and schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested in Hon. President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979, which was presented on 06.01.2026 be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment : The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member at 5.39 p.m. pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 08, 2026.