



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 121.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, January 08, 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. (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. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

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. 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. 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. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports
Hon. Gamagedara Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure
Hon. Muneer Mulaffer, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs
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. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs
Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education
Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs
Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment
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. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
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. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
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. 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. Nandana Pathmakumara
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. 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 Bayanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka

Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharooif
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
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. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
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 Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements of the Institute of Human Resource Advancement of the University of Colombo for the year 2023 moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Reports of the Paranthan Chemicals Company Limited for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 and moved that those reports be referred to the the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the the Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation for the year 2023 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the 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 Ministry of Fisheries in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, The Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Regulations made by the then Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation under Section 237 read with Section 151 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2452/40 of 04th September 2025; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the then Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation under Sections 141, 143, 144, 157A, 168 and 190 read with Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2455/29 of 25th September 2025

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera, Chair of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Reports of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the First Session of the Tenth Parliament only in Sinhala language with special leave of the House and the English and Tamil language copies will be presented as soon as possible.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe presented —

- (i) A petition dated 06.07.2025 from Mr. A.M.M.G. Sarath Ananda of Kadegedara, Wepathanga, Padeniya; and
- (ii) A petition dated 15.08.2025 from Mrs. K.D.N. Perera of 98 Junction, Thibolketiya, Kolambageaara.

- (2) Hon. Kins Nelson presented a petition dated 28.07.2025 from Mrs. P. Yvonne Dilrukshika of No. 45, Nishshanka Malla Pedesa, New Town, Polonnaruwa.
- (3) Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama presented a petition dated 14.07.2025 from Mrs. K.A. Ariyawathie of No. 79/16, Ranmuthugala, Kadawatha.

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

(At 3.02 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

(At 4.32 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

4. Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No.1): The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development moved,— Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No.1),— That the Regulations made by the then Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation under Section 237 read with Section 151 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2452/40 of 04th September 2025, which were presented on 18.12.2025, be approved.

(At 12.03 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Science and Technology moved,—That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.53 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development moved,—That Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.44 p.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.43 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act (No.2): The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development moved,— That the Regulations made by the then Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation under Sections 141, 143, 144, 157A, 168 and 190 read with Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2455/29 of 25th September 2025, which were presented on 18.12.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment (Establishment of Day-care Safe Centres in Government Institutions): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member at 5.34 p.m. pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, January 09, 2026.