



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 125.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, January 22, 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. (Prof.) A.H.M.H. Abayarathna, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

Hon. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayatissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media and Chief Government Whip

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 Vidyaratna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

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. Arkam Ilyas, Deputy Minister of Power

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. 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. Muneer Mullafer, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs
Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health
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. 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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe

Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Chaminda Lalith 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. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
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. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
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. 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. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. Imran Maharooif
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
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. 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. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law
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:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of another petition filed at the Supreme Court in terms of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Parliamentary Pensions (Repeal)’, in addition to the receipt of four Petitions mentioned in my announcements dated 20th and 21st of January 2026 “.

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill was presented in Parliament on 26.11.2025 and referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 50(2) of Parliament. The said Committee, after due consideration of the Bill, has recommended that the Bill be referred to the Committee on Public Finance and therefore, it has been proposed that the Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill also be referred to the Committee on Public Finance with the leave of the House.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Ayurveda for the year 2024

and moved that those reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment .

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Superior Courts Complex Board of Management 2024 and moved that report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Hector Appuhamy, The Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability presented the —

- (i) Performance Reports and Annual Accounts of the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department for the years 2022 and 2024;
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation Ltd for the years 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024;
- (iii) Annual Performance Reports of the Co-operative Employees Commission for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (iv) Performance Reports of the Department of the Registrar of Companies for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (v) Annual Reports of the Lanka Sathosa Ltd for the years 2021 and 2022;
- (vi) Annual Performance Reports of the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development for the years 2023 and 2024;
- (vii) Performance Report of the Department of Co-operative Development for the year 2022;
- (viii) Annual Report of the Consumer Affairs Authority for the year 2022; and
- (ix) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Lalith Athulathmudali Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the years 2021 and 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi presented a petition dated 05.05.2025 from Mr. M. M. Dingiri Bandara of No. 232/19, Jayanthi Uyana, Honnanthara North, Piliyandala.

- (2) Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri presented a petition dated 30.12.2024 from Mr. D.M.S.D Dasanayaka of No 54/1, 3rd Lane, Mahasen Place, New Town, Polonnaruwa.
- (3) Hon. Thilina Samarakoon presented a petition dated 06.07.2025 from Mr. R.M.U.U.R. Rajakaruna of No 62, Ganthiriyagama, Ipalogama.
- (4) Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 13.06.2025 from Mr. W.M. Sarath Nandasiri Bandara of Weerasola, Bakmeewewa, Ambanpola.

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

5. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 11.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Privileges: Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka seconded by Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan on 13th November, 2025 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Imran Maharroof, seconded by Hon. Mujibur Rahman moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the UnV Foundation.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment for report.

8. Adjournment (Support for Comprehensive Educational Transformation Process): The Hon. Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

(At 11.26 a.m, the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation moved,— The Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.54 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— The Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasinghe Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.02 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned at 5.47 p.m. by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 2026.