



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 115.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, December 03, 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. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

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.) 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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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

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

Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

Hon. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

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. Muneer Mulaffer, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe

Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

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 Kugathanan

Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. Mano Ganesan

Hon. Chathura Galappaththi

Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha

Hon. D. V. Chanaka

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. Dilith Jayaweera

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekera, Attorney at Law

Hon. M.A.M. Thahir

Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake

Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law

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 the Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed, Member of Parliament has tendered his letter of resignation from his Membership of Parliament to the Secretary-General of Parliament, and as a result a vacancy occurred in the Membership of the Tenth Parliament. The Letter of Resignation will now be read out by the Secretary-General of Parliament.”



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பாராளுமன்றம்
PARLIAMENT

28.11.2025

The Secretary General of Parliament
Parliament of Sri Lanka
Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte

Dear Secretary General,

Resignation from the Position of Member of Parliament

I hereby tender my resignation as a Member of Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, appointed through the National List of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), with immediate effect.

I wish to place on record my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Speaker, the Secretary General, the staff of Parliament, and my fellow Members of Parliament for the support extended to me during my tenure.

Kindly take the necessary steps to formalize this resignation lawfully..

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Ismail Mutthu Mohamed,
Member of Parliament

Cc: Chairman, Elections Commission of Sri Lanka
General Secretary, Samagi Jana Balawegaya
Secretary General, All Ceylon Makkal Congress

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the Second Installment – Parts XXXI and XXXII, Third Installment – Part XXI and Ninth Installment – Parts XVIII and XIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2024 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Speaker presented the Special Audit Report on irregularities and its impact in the process of convention of National School of Business Management (NSBM) into a Guarantee limited company which was a subsidiary of the National Institute of Business

Management (NIBM) in the Tenth Installment of the Report of the Auditor General in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 71 of the value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002, regarding the Management of the Value Added Tax Refund Fund and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2460/44 of 31st October 2025 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2464/29 of 28th November 2025 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979; and
- (ii) Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Development Activities Programme appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.10.2025 to 31.10.2025 in terms of Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 3 of 2025.

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

(5) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Annual Report of the Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited for the year 2023/2024 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment presented 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 Department of Samurdhi Development 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the —

- (i) Citizens Budget – National Budget 2026
- (ii) Key Expenditure Components by Ministry – Budget Estimates – 2026

- (iii) Budget, Economic and Fiscal Position Report - 2026
- (iv) Mid – Year Fiscal Position Report 2025
- (v) Tax Expenditure Statement – 2024/2025
- (vi) Medium Term Debt Management Strategy 2026 - 2030 and Annual Borrowing Plan - 2026
- (vii) Major Public Investment Projects – 2026/2028
- (viii) Cadre Information Public Sector – 2025
- (ix) Regulations under Section 71 read with Section 52 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021
- (x) Rules under Section 32 read with Section 25 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) regarding Excise License Fees
- (xi) Regulations under Section 20 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2458/43 dated 15th October 2025);
- (xii) Supplementary Estimate No. 4 of 2025, Head 243 – Programme 01 for the financial year commencing on 1st January 2025 and ending on 31st December 2025 under the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
- (xiii) Strategic Development Projects (Amendment) Bill;
- (xiv) Regulations under Section 20 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2459/46 dated 24th October 2025);
- (xv) Order under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy;
- (xvi) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2457/06 dated 09th October 2025);
- (xvii) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2461/40 dated 07th November 2025);
- (xviii) Regulation 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
- (xix) Order under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake presented a petition dated 22.07.2025 from Mr. Wijesinghage Weerasinghe of Handamagama, Wellawa.

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

5. Universities (Amendment): The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented,— Bill to amend the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, January 06, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital

6. Privileges (No. 1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law, M.P. on 18th November, 2025 in Parliament to the effect that her 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. Privileges (No. 2): Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, seconded by Hon. Kins Nelson moved,— The matters referred to the Hon. Speaker by the Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna, M.P. by the letter dated 21st November, 2025, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges as per the order given by the Hon. Speaker on 01st December, 2025 in Parliament and in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Appropriation Bill—(Nineteenth Allotted Day): Considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Head 116

Programme 01 (Recurrent Expenditure)

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, proposed that the Programme be reduced by Rs. 10/-.

(At 10.39 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 12.25 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 1.40 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

(At 2.42 p.m. Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi took the Chair.)

(At 5.56 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 6.23 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and negatived.

Whereupon the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development proposed that the Chair do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again on Friday, December 05th, 2025.

9. Presentation with the special leave of the House, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 22(4): The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development moved,— The Supplementary Estimate No. 6 of 2025 be presented and that Supplementary Estimate be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment: And it being 6.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned at 7.08 p.m. by the Speaker pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.00 a.m. on Friday 05th, December, 2025, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 13th November, 2025.