



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 129.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, February 06, 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne, Speaker

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. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

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

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. (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. Sunil Handunnetti, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

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

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. 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. 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. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment
Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure
Hon. Muneer Mulafter, 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. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy
Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development
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. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment
Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
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.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna 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. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Lasith Bhashana 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. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
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. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda

Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
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. 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. Muhammad Faizal

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received the Determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill titled ‘Parliamentary Pensions (Repeal)’ which was challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of the Article 121 (1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that no provision in the Bill is inconsistent with any provision of the Constitution and the Bill can be enacted by Parliament with a simple majority.

I order that the Determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the official report of today's proceedings.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received another copy of a petition filed at the Supreme Court in terms of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Protection of Occupants’ on 5th of February 2026 in addition to the receipt of four Petitions mentioned in my announcement dated 03rd February 2026.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2024 and moved that that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development under Sections 44, 123, 124, 125, 126, 126B, 128, 132, 132A and 231 read with Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2463/04 of 17th November 2025; and

- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development under Section 237 read with Section 126 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2467/52 of 17th December 2025

and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways and Urban Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Nishantha Jayaweera, Member of the Committee, on behalf of the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development presented the Report of the Committee on the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Inland Revenue Department for the year 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented—

- (i) A petition dated 17.08.2025 from Mr. H.W. Saman of 'Jayamini', Thalwatta, Katuwana;
- (ii) A petition dated 30.06.2025 from Mr. R.P. Malhamy of Rajapuragoda, Walasmulla; and
- (iii) A petition dated 02.06.2025 from Mr. Roshan Pushpakumara Weerakoon of No. 198, Uddakandara road, Yodakandiya, Tissamaharama.

(2) Hon. Chathura Galappaththi presented—

- (i) A petition dated 27.07.2025 from Mrs. H.G. Amali Tharaka of No 187, Sunil Sewana, Gathara - West, Kaburupitiya;
- (ii) A petition dated 20.07.2025 from Mrs. P.K. Ruwanthi of Nuruwa, Delgalla, Gandara; and
- (iii) A petition dated 20.07.2025 from Mrs. R. Shrimali Wijayanga of 'Wijaya', Diyaela, Nakulugamuwa.

(3) Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga presented—

- (i) A petition dated 23.09.2025 from Mr. A.R.M.H.B. Rathnayaka of No. 206/2, Malwathuhiripitiya, Buthpitiya;

- (ii) A petition dated 12.09.2025 from Mr. Ashoka Upasena of No. 244/4/4, St. Sebastiyen Mawatha, Kurukulawa, Ragama; and
- (iii) A petition dated 06.11.2025 from Mr. N.H. Karandeniya of No 325 C, Kandy Road, Dalugama, Kelaniya.

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

5. Business of the Parliament (No. 1): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Government Business shall have precedence this day.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Business of the Parliament (No. 2): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 80 and 81 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.

7. Sittings of the Parliament: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of 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 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Privileges: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matters raised by the Speaker on 05th February, 2026 in Parliament to the effect that privileges of Parliament 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.

9. Resolution under the Public Security Ordinance: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Proclamation made by the President under Section 2 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), as amended by Act, No. 8 of 1959 and Law, No. 6 of 1978 of the National State Assembly and Act, No. 28 of 1988, bringing into operation the provisions of Part II of the aforesaid Ordinance throughout Sri Lanka with effect from 28th January, 2026, be approved.

(At 11.01 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

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

The Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.00 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Energy moved,— That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.02 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.02 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

(At 5.26 p.m. Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 106; Noes: 02.

The following One hundred and five (105) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 002. Sunil Handunnetti	Yes
G 004. Vijitha Herath	Yes
G 006. Bimal Rathnayake	Yes
G 007. Harini Amarasuriya	Yes
G 011. A.H.M.H. Abayarathna	Yes
G 014. Harshana Nanayakkara	Yes
G 020. Kumara Jayakody	Yes
G 023. Upali Pannilage	Yes
G 024. Susil Ranasinghe	Yes
G 025. Nihal Galappaththi	Yes
G 026. Nihal Abeysinghe	Yes
G 027. Namal Karunaratne	Yes
G 029. Gamagedara Dissanayake	Yes
G 030. R.M. Jayawardhana	Yes
G 031. Sunil Watagala	Yes
G 033. Mahinda Jayasinghe	Yes
G 034. Chathuranga Abeysinghe	Yes
G 035. Eranga Gunasekara	Yes

G 040. Anton Jayakody	Yes
G 041. Hemali Weerasekara	Yes
G 042. Sundaralingam Pradeep	Yes
G 043. Ruwan Ranasinghe	Yes
G 044. Muneer Mulaffer	Yes
G 046. Eranga Weeraratne	Yes
G 047. Namal Sudarshana	Yes
G 049. Madhura Senevirathna	Yes
G 050. Arun Hemachandra	Yes
G 051. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku	Yes
G 052. Aruna Jayasekera	Yes
G 053. Sugath Thilakaratne	Yes
G 054. Kaushalya Ariyaratne	Yes
G 057. Dinindu Saman	Yes
G 058. Nishantha Jayaweera	Yes
G 059. Ashoka Ranwala	Yes
G 060. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi	Yes
G 061. Gayan Janaka	Yes
G 062. Najith Indika	Yes
G 063. Lakmali Hemachandra	Yes
G 064. Samanmali Gunasingha	Yes
G 070. Sagarika Athauda	Yes
G 071. Roshan Akmeemana	Yes
G 072. U. P. Abeywickrama	Yes
G 073. L.M. Abeywickrama	Yes
G 074. M.K.M. Aslam	Yes
G 075. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana	Yes
G 076. Oshani Umanga	Yes
G 077. Krishnan Kalaichelvi	Yes
G 080. Chaminda Lalith Kumara	Yes
G 082. Nilanthi Kottahachchi	Yes
G 083. M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani	Yes
G 084. Lasith Bhashana Gamage	Yes
G 086. Nilusha Lakmali Gamage	Yes
G 088. Ajith Gihan	Yes
G 089. Jagath Gunawardana	Yes
G 090. Aboobucker Athambawa	Yes

G 091. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody	Yes
G 092. Thushari Jayasingha	Yes
G 093. T.K. Jayasundara	Yes
G 094. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran	Yes
G 097. Sugath Wasantha de Silva	Yes
G 098. Anushka Thilakarathne	Yes
G 099. Chandana Thennakoon	Yes
G 103. Susantha Dodawatta	Yes
G 104. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna	Yes
G 105. Sena Nanayakkara	Yes
G 106. Aruna Panagoda	Yes
G 107. Nimal Palihena	Yes
G 108. Nishantha Perera	Yes
G 109. Stepni Fernando	Yes
G 110. Kanthasamy Prabu	Yes
G 111. Lal Premanath	Yes
G 112. Nanda Bandara	Yes
G 113. Padmasiri Bandara	Yes
G 114. Ravindra Bandara	Yes
G 115. Sudath Balagalla	Yes
G 116. Sri Bavanandarajah	Yes
O 014. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan	No
O 015. G.G. Ponnambalam	No
O 066. Wijesiri Basnayake	Yes
O 067. S. Sandaruwan Madarasinghe	Yes
O 068. Prageeth Madhuranga	Yes
O 070. Ruwan Mapalagama	Yes
O 071. Nandana Millagala	Yes
O 081. Danushka Ranganath	Yes
O 082. Sanjeeva Ranasingha	Yes
O 083. Sunil Rathnasiri	Yes
O 084. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka	Yes
O 089. Deepthi Wasalage	Yes
O 090. Kanchana Welipitiya	Yes
O 091. R. G. Wijerathna	Yes
O 092. Nishantha Samaraweera	Yes
O 093. Priyantha Wijerathna	Yes

O 094. Ruwan Wijeweera	Yes
O 095. Darmapriya Wijesinghe	Yes
O 099. Thilina Samarakoon	Yes
O 101. Dewananda Suraweera	Yes
O 102. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi	Yes
O 103. G.D. Sooriyabandara	Yes
O 105. Janaka Senarathna	Yes
O 106. Chandima Hettiaratchi	Yes
O 107. Champika Hettiarachchi	Yes
O 108. Dinesh Hemantha	Yes
O 109. Geetha Herath	Yes
O 111. Muhammad Faizal	Yes
O 112. Ashoka Gunasena	Yes
O 113. Nandana Pathmakumara	Yes
O 115. Samantha Ranasingha	Yes

The following (01) Member of Parliament cast his vote having being asked the names by the Secretary-General of Parliament under the Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Parliament as follows:—

R.M. Gamini Rathnayake	Yes
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10. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Proclamation made and published in the Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 2473/13 and dated 28th January, 2026 and schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested in President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979, which was presented on 03.02.2026 be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.29 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.