



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 132.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 19, 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. 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.) 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. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative 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. 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. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, Deputy Minister of Defence

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. 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. P. Ruwan Senarath, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

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. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
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. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
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. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. Kins Nelson
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. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda 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. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
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. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
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. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Kabir Hashim
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. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XL of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2018;
- (ii) Ninth Installment – Part XLVII of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2020;
- (iii) Second Installment – Parts LXII, LXIII, LXIV and LXV of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2021;
- (iv) Second Installment – Part LXIX of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2022;
- (v) Second Installment – Parts LIII and LIV of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2023;and

- (vi) Second Installment – Parts XXXVI, XXXVII, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XL, XLI, XLII and XLIII, Third Installment – Parts XXV and XXVI and Ninth Installment – Parts XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII and XXVIII 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 Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Report on the Deviation of Headline Inflation from the Inflation Target Set Out in the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement for the second and third quarters of the year 2025 and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance .

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the Annual Report of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2024 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability .

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera, Chair of the Committee on Public enterprises presented the Seventeenth Report 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 stated that the English and Tamil language copies will be presented as soon as possible.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented—

- (i) A petition dated 01.11.2025 from Mr. H.H. Saman of No. 91, Kahandawa, Ranna;
- (ii) A petition dated 20.10.2025 from Mr. M.A.C Priyadarshana of No. 66/2, Second Step, Detagamuwa, Katharagama; and
- (iii) A petition dated 22.11.2025 from Mr. R.A Wijitha Kumara Rupasinghe of No. 293, Pallerota, Mamadala.

(2) Hon. Jagath Vithana presented—

- (i) A petition dated 09.08.2025 from Mrs. K.T. Amarawathie of No. 143/10, Aluthgama Road, Mathugama; and
- (ii) A petition dated 09.08.2025 from Mr. M.N.M. Fasmin of No. 89/20, Nasim Mawatha, Adhikarigoda, Darga Town.

(3) Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi presented a petition dated 05.01.2026 from Mr. K.G.C.M. Gamage of No 16/6 B, Hospital Road, Ratnapura.

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

4. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna seconded by Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act (Chapter 113).”

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 Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government.

5. Judicature (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 12.11 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.46 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,—That Hon. M.K.M. Aslam took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.03 p.m. Hon. M. K. M. Aslam took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,—That Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.10 p.m. Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,—That Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.06 p.m. Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time

The Minister of Justice and National Integration 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 3 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 Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

6. Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time

The Minister of Justice and National Integration 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed an amendment to insert delete line 11 and substitute the following in page 2:—

“citizen of Sri Lanka or not, on the high seas, while on board a ship registered in Sri Lanka or in a State other than Sri Lanka or a stateless ship, manufactures any of the following dangerous drugs, namely heroin, cocaine, morphine or opium, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction by the High Court, be liable to a sentence of death or life imprisonment.

(2) Any person who, whether he is a citizen of Sri Lanka or not,-”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed another amendment to delete line 20 and substitute the following in page 2:—

"possesses or traffics any";

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed another amendment to insert delete lines 11 to 14 (both inclusive) and substitute the following in page 2:—

“‘high seas’ means all waters beyond the territorial waters of Sri Lanka or of any other State, without prejudice to the legal status of the exclusive economic zone under international law;”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 10 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 with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

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

Question Proposed and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.44 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026.