



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 134.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, March 03, 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

Honourable Anura Kumara Dissanayake, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

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. (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. Ananda Wijepala, Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. K.V. Samantha Vidyarathna, 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. Sunil Handunnetti, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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

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

Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Urban Development

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 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. (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. 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. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana

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. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

Hon. B. Ariyawansa

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

Hon. K. Ilankumaran

Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe

Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC

Hon. Upul Kithsiri

Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan

Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara

Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara

Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law

Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage

Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage

Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law

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. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana

Hon. Dilith Jayaweera

Hon. T.K. Jayasundara

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law

Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy

Hon. M.A.M. Thahir

Hon. Chandana Thennakoon

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake

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. Kins Nelson

Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara

Hon. Aruna Panagoda

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. S.M. Marikkar
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. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
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. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
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. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
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. 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. Messages from the President: The Speaker read the following Messages received from the President:—

I



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/7/IX/3/01

February 28, 2026

Hon. I.W.M. Jagath Wickramaratne
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

I have declared by Proclamation dated 28th February, 2026 under Section 2 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40) that the provisions of Part II of the aforesaid Ordinance shall come into operation throughout Sri Lanka from 28th February, 2026.

The Parliament is hereby duly informed in terms of Article 155 (4) of the Constitution that the purpose of the above Proclamation is to the protection of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community, considering the post disaster situation caused by the cyclone Ditwah.

Yours sincerely,


Anura Kumara Dissanayake
President

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

II



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/7/IX/3/01

February 28, 2026

Hon. I.W.M. Jagath Wickramarathne
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,


Anura Kumara Dissanayake
President

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the Second Installment – Part XLIV and Ninth Installment – Part XXIX 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 Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and relevant Regulatory Authorities under Section 71 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2469/02 of 29th December 2025 and moved those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2477/47 of 28th February 2026 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.

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

(4) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Report on the 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 Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that that Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented Annual Report of the Coconut Development Authority for the year 2022 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 Environment presented Annual Report of the State Timber Corporation 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on the Order under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2467/67 of 18th December 2025) which was referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Chanaka Madugoda, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital Presented the Report on the —

- (i) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka for the years 2022 and 2023;
- (ii) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine for the years 2022 and 2023; and
- (iii) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka for the years 2022 and 2023

which were referred to the 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 04.08.2025 from Mr. W.G.N. Priyankara Karunadasa of Hangamuwa Road, Pitadeniya, Udakarawita, Rathnapura.
- (2) Hon. Aruna Panagoda presented a petition dated 13.10.2025 from Mr. K.K. Bodhipaksha of No. 11, Helsirigama, Katukithula, Helboda.
- (3) Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 23.09.2025 from Mr. Mudaligedara Nishantha Bandara of Mudaligedara, Mirihagoda, Hewadiwela, Rambukkana;
 - (ii) A petition dated 10.03.2025 from Mr. R.P. Wijethunga of 'Wije Villa', Thoradeniya, Dorawaka;
 - (iii) A petition dated 05.06.2025 from Mrs. T.M.P.K. Wekumbura of No. 1 10/2, Egodawela, Beligala; and
 - (iv) A petition dated 14.07.2025 from Mrs. T.R.W. Thambugala of Delgamuwa, Tholangamuwa.

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

5. Order under the Foreign Exchange Act: Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 22 of the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2467/67 of 18th December 2025, which was presented on 17.02.2026, be approved.

(At 12.07 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 2.07 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Mass Media moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.10 p.m. the Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Adjournment (Issues Faced by Civil Defence Personnel): The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.41 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 04, 2026.