



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 135.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, March 04, 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. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

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

Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

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. 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. 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. 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. Gamagedara Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

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. 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. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education

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. Aboobucker Athambawa
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. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
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. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
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. 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. 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. 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. 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. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
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. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
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. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
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. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
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. (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 First Installment – Parts XXXVII, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XL and XLI and Fourth Installment – Parts XXI, XXII, XXIII and XXIV 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 In accordance with the decision taken by the Parliamentary Staff Advisory Committee on 25.07.2025 to conduct an external investigation to investigate and report on the alleged sexual harassment of an officer of the Department of Information Systems and Management of Parliament, I table the final investigation report submitted to me on 24.11.2025 in relation to the investigation conducted by Retired High Court Judge Sujatha Alahapperuma, in accordance with the decision of the Parliamentary Staff Advisory Committee held on 19.02.2026.

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

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented 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 Meteorology in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Reports of the Galoya Plantations Private Limited for the years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the the Performance Report of the Ministry of Technology for the year 2023 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Science, Technology and Digital Transformation .

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Private) Limited for the year 2023 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 Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Rathna Gamage presented a petition dated 16.08.2025 from Mr. W. Gunadasa of No. 183, Dina 100 Niwasa, Katupolwatta, Rathgama.
- (2) Hon. Upul Kithsiri presented a petition dated 17.11.2025 from Mr. H.M Amarapala of No. 990/01, Mudunmankada, Udawalawa.
- (3) Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage presented a petition dated 07.02.2026 from Mr. J.A. Lalith Bodana of Thithmale Niwasa, Seenipella, Mulatiyana.
- (4) Hon. Nanda Bandara presented a petition dated 17.07.2025 from Mr. D.M. Anura Bandara Wijethunga and 03 others of No 24, Paranawatta Road, Kerawalapitiya, Wattala.

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

(At 12.13 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

3. Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

The Deputy Minister of Defence moved,— That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.58 p.m. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Mass Media moved,— That Hon. Upul Kithsiri do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.04 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.04 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Bill accordingly read a second time

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development 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 44 were agreed to.

Clause 45

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to delete line 18 and substitute the following in page 44:—

“employees of the licensee:

Provided that, the Authority shall ensure that every licensee shall comply with the provisions of sections 44, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 52 when formulating such guidelines.”;

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.

Clause 46

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to delete line 30 and substitute the following in page 44:—

“may be specified by the Authority;”; and

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

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed another amendment to delete line 2 and substitute the following in page 45:—

“respectfully;

- (f) provide each customer with accurate and precise information of the services provided by the licensee and also of the terms of the agreement and the interest rates, surcharges and costs charged;
- (g) conduct pre-lending and post lending assessments of borrowers;
- (h) not use any abusive or violent collection practices; and
- (i) grant a grace period prior to the commencement of the repayment of a loan:

Provided that, the licensee shall consider the nature of the business and repayment capacity of the borrower when determining such grace period.”; and

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 47 and 48 were agreed to.

Clause 49

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to delete line 7 and substitute the following in page 46:—

“(a) receiver interest on any loan at a rate exceeding the maximum interest rate *per annum* determined in the manner specified by the directives issued under paragraph (a) of subsection (I) of section 37 and the fixed minimum rate of interest payable of such loan and credit facilities;

(b) Obtain the consent or signature of any person to”;

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

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed another amendment to delete line 25 and substitute the following in page 46:—

“from such person;”; and

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

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education proposed another amendment to delete line 30 and substitute the following in page 46:—

“the directives issued under section 33; or

(i) set off social security benefits for debt payments.”.

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 50 to 84 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 Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development 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.

4. Adjournment : The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.04 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, March 05, 2026.