



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 136.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, March 05, 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. 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. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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. 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 Mulaffer, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism

Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health

Hon. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply

Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs

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. 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. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
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. Upul Kithsiri
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. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha

Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
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. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
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. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
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. (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. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
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. 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. (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. Rias 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. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have appointed the following Members of Parliament under the Chair of the Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayatissa to serve on the Select Committee of Parliament to conduct a comprehensive study on the lack of preparedness to face Cyclone ‘Ditwah’ and report to Parliament and submit its proposals and recommendations in that regard:—

Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena
Hon. Anton Jayakody
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
 Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
 Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
 Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
 Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
 Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
 Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Rural Development, Social 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 Fiscal Policy 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.

(2) The Minister of Rural Development, Social Empowerment presented the 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 06.01.2026 to 29.01.2026 in terms of Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 23 of 2025.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe presented a petition dated 13.08.2025 from Mr. D.A. Jagath Pushpakumara of No 189, Jayasiripura, Anuradhapura.
- (2) Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera presented a petition dated 09.12.2025 from Mrs. R.M Nirosha Kumuduni Rathnayake of No B/55, Ganegama, Dorawaka, Warakapola.
- (3) Hon. Kins Nelson presented a petition dated 27.07.2025 from Mrs. A.M.C.S. Alahakoon of No. 79/4, 4 Ela, Kaduruwela, Polonnaruwa.
- (4) Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara presented a petition dated 17.11.2025 from Mrs. K.P. Padma Chandralatha of Idigollawatta, Humbuluwa, Alawwa.

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

4. Sitzings 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 11.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Adjournment (Formulation of National Care Policy Recognizing Women's Role): The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 11.25 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.31 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Minister of Women and Child Affairs moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.35 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.47 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, March 06, 2026.