



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 139.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, March 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. 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. 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 Viddyarathna, 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. Vijitha Herath**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism
- Hon. Sajith Premadasa**, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
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- 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. 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. Mahinda Jayasinghe**, Deputy Minister of Labour
- Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne**, Deputy Minister of Sports
- 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 Mulaffer**, 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. 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. 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. 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.) Ramanathan Archchuna

Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam

Hon. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi

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. 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. Mano Ganesan

Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage

Hon. Thilanka U. 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. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
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. W. H. M. Dharmasena
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. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda Bandara

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bayanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva 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. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilaka
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. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
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. 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. 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 Second Installment – Parts XLV and XLVI and Ninth Installment – Part XXX 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 Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Regulation made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 4F read with Section 3 of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to the eligibility criteria and the exemptions or concessions and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2474/66 of 08th February 2026. and moved that Regulation be referred to the Committee on Public Finance .

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Homoeopathic Medical Council for the year 2022 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports presented the Annual Report of the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority for the year 2023 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana presented —

(i) A petition dated 11.11.2025 from Mr. E.M.A.R. Sarath Ekanayaka of Akkara 100 Watta, Panliyadda; and

(ii) A petition dated 04.06.2025 from Mrs. J.A. Bhadra of Kongahagedara, Ibbagamuwa.

(2) Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 14.10.2025 from Mr. U.S.K. Kulasinghe of No 18/3, Vihara Mawatha, Katugastota.

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

3. Sitzings of the Parliament: 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 2.00 p.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.

4. Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act:

Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development on behalf of Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That 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, which were presented on 03.03.2026, be approved

(At 11.32 p.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 Economic Development moved,—That Hon. M.K.M. Aslam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.11 p.m. Hon. M.K.M. Aslam took the Chair.)

(At 1.49 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Adjournment (Effects of Current Global Situation on Local Economy): The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.42 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources moved,—That Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.55 p.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasinghe took the Chair.)

Debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Friday, March 20th, 2026.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.56 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 20th, 2026.