



*(Tenth Parliament - First Session)*

No. 146.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, May 06, 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

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**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 and Minister of Energy

**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. 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. Wasantha Samarasinghe**, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development
- 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. Chaturanga 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. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena**, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways
- Hon. Anton Jayakody**, Deputy Minister of Environment
- 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. 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. P. Ruwan Senarath**, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

**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

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**Hon. Roshan Akmeemana**

**Hon. Ajith Agalakada**

**Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa**

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

**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. Hesha 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. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella**, Attorney at Law

**Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan**

**Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara**

**Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara**

**Hon. Sarath Kumara**, Attorney at Law

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

**Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani**

**Hon. Mano Ganesan**  
**Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage**  
**Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage**  
**Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage**  
**Hon. Chathura Galappaththi**  
**Hon. Nihal Galappaththi**  
**Hon. Ajith Gihan**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha**  
**Hon. Ashoka Gunasena**  
**Hon. D. V. Chanaka**  
**Hon. Gayan Janaka**  
**Hon. Kumara Jayakody**  
**Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody**  
**Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha**  
**Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana**  
**Hon. Dilith Jayaweera**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law**  
**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. 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. 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. Stepni Fernando**  
**Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu**  
**Hon. Amila Prasad**  
**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. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga**  
**Hon. Thahir Marrikkar**  
**Hon. S.M. Marikkar**  
**Hon. K. Kader Masthan**  
**Hon. Imran Maharooof**  
**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. 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. Sunil Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan**  
**Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam**  
**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. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law**  
**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. (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. 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 Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital .

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the —

- (i) Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2486/13 of 28<sup>th</sup> April 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; and
- (ii) 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 04.03.2026 to 31.03.2026 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) The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Plantation Management for the year 2023 and moved that the 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—
- (i) A petition dated 16.01.2026 from Mrs. Anusha Niranjalee Gamage of ‘Warna’, Mahagedarawatta, Ibulagoda, Rathgama; and
  - (ii) A petition dated 14.12.2025 from Mrs. M.J. Nurul Fareeza of No. 108, Hirabura Cross Street, Karapitiya, Galle.
- (2) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented—
- (i) A petition dated 24.11.2025 from Mr. M.K.W Wickramarathne of No. 6/10, 1st Lane, Purana Road, Maharagama;
  - (ii) A petition dated 27.10.2025 from Mr. Ranjith Samarawickrama of No. 23, Hydramani House, Manajchawa, Ambalanthota;
  - (iii) A petition dated 15.01.2026 from Mr. S.A. Nimal of Minipuragama, Chithragala, Ambalantota; and
  - (iv) A petition dated 21.12.2025 from Mrs. W.G. Nandawathi of No. 29/1, Akkara 10, Hakuruwela.

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

**3. Telecommunication Levy (Amendment):** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented,—Bill to amend the Telecommunication Levy Act, No. 21 of 2011.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance .

**4. Finance (Amendment):** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented,—Bill to amend the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance .

**5. National Environmental (Amendment):** The Minister of Environment presented,— Bill to amend the National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

**6. Sittings 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 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

**7. Rescue, Rehabilitation and Insolvency (Corporate and Personal) Bill:**— Order for Second Reading read.

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

(At 11.11 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.37 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.37 p.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasinghe took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,— That Hon. Upul Kithsiri do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.39 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

(At 5.06 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees 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 Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.

Clause 1 to 480 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, be now read the third time without amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

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

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.53 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, May 07<sup>th</sup>, 2026.