



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 148.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, May 08, 2026 at 11.35 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 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.) 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 Viddyaratna, 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 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. 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. 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. 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. Aboobucker Athambawa

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

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. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

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.) Chamindrane 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. 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. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Kumara Jayakody
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
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. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
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. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
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. 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. 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. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
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. 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. 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.

His Excellency To Lam, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party was present in the House on the invitation of the Speaker pursuant to his announcement to Parliament on Thursday, May 07th, 2026.

1. Speech of Welcome by the Speaker : The Speaker, while welcoming His Excellency To Lam, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party .

2. Speech of the President of Viet Nam: His Excellency To Lam, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party addressed the Members of Parliament.

3. Speeches of thanks : The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament made speeches of thanks.

Suspension of Sittings

At 12.20 p.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 1.30 p.m.

At 1.30 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair

4. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Deputy Speaker presented the—

- (i) Ninth Installment – Part XLVIII of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2021;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part LVI and Ninth Installment – Part XXXI of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2023; and
- (iii) Second Installment – Parts XLIX, L and LI and Ninth Installment – Part XXXVI 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 Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Deputy Speaker presented the Sixth Report of the Constitutional Council submitted under Article 41G (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

5. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Member of Parliament, Member of the Committee, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on the Fraudulent Foreign Debt Repayment Transaction of US Dollars 2.5 Million only in English language with special leave of the House .

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

6. Business of the Parliament: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 24(2) of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Providing opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen who represent a national sports team or claim a national level record to read for any degree course related to the field of sports: Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi, seconded by Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should prepare the necessary legal and higher educational structure for sportsmen and sportswomen who represent any national sports team in Sri Lanka or claim a national level record to pursue any degree course related to the field of sports, not based on their basic educational qualification or the Z-score. (P. 3/2024)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Formulating a program to make school students aware of the University of Vocational Technology: Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, seconded by Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a programme be developed by the government to make schoolchildren aware of the courses of the University of Vocational Technology, which targets at the job market and vocational technology, deviating from the traditional university framework in Sri Lanka (P.18/2024).

The Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.07 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Formulating a course of action to prevent the misuse of the positions of professors and doctors: Hon. Rohana Bandara, seconded by Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, with the leave of the House moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the government do take necessary action to formulate a course of action through the University Grants Commission for preventing the situation, where many persons in our society misuse the titles such as Professor and Doctor (P.43/2025).

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.29 p.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasinghe took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Setting up of a unit with legal powers to solve the problems faced by the migrant employees: Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, seconded by Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a unit with legal powers be set up to look into problems faced by migrant employees including assault, abduction, rape, sexual abuse, homicide, financial fraud and facilitate the safe return of affected workers to Sri Lanka and look into their safety.(P.33/2025).

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Formulating a methodology to prevent the damage caused by the pine plantations to sources of water and the environment: Hon. Ravindra Bandara, seconded by Hon. Pathamasiri Bandara moved,— That this Parliament resolves that a methodology be formulated to remove pine plantations and to substitute useful indigenous plants considering the damage caused to sources of water and the environment by pine plantations, which have been grown especially in mountainous areas including the Uva Province (P.50/2025).

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Preventing suicide among young children: Hon. Lal Premanath, seconded by Hon. T.K. Jayasundara moved,— That this Parliament resolves that, given the failure of existing measures to prevent young children from committing suicide, including training teachers for counselling in every school, establishing a counselling division in every divisional secretariat and a counselling unit at every district secretariat, offering diploma courses, degree courses and postgraduate courses in counselling in state and private universities, and establishing psychiatric units in every major hospital to address depression lately, it is imperative for political authorities, government officials, the electronic and print media, and the public to deeply intervene in all these measures. (P.60/2025).

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Adjournment : The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.16 p.m. adjourned by the presiding member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026.