



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 150.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, May 20, 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. (Prof.) Chrisantha 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. (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. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

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. 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. 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. 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. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. Aravinda Senarath, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation

Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

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. 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. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa 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. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Kumara Jayakody
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. 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. W. H. M. Dharmasena
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. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Nanda 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. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Danushka Ranganath

Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari 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. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
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. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law

Hon. Dinesh Hemantha

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. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of another petition filed at the Supreme Court in terms of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment)’, in addition to the receipt of the petition mentioned in my announcement dated 19 May 2026.”

II

“In view of the concerns raised by certain Members of Parliament regarding the current procedure for setting dates for questions for oral answers and including them in the agenda, the Parliament Secretariat has prepared a detailed report on the ‘Current Procedure for Setting Dates for Questions for Oral Answers and Including them in the Order Paper’ as decided at the meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Business held on 27.11.2025.

After considering this report at the meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Business held on 14.01.2026, the Committee, having agreed to it, and having also obtained the views of the Members who presented the facts on this matter and those who showed interest, further decided that it would be appropriate to obtain recommendations from the Backbencher Committee in relation to this matter.

Accordingly, after extensive discussion on this matter at the meeting of the Backbencher Committee held on 04.03.2026 with the participation of the relevant Members, agreement was expressed to implement as it is the current procedure contained in the report prepared by the Parliament Secretariat, and the report of the Backbencher Committee in that regard was considered at the meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Business held on 08.05.2026, and in accordance with the decision made by the Committee, which agreed thereto, that steps should be taken to inform Members of Parliament in that regard, I wish to draw the above matters to the kind attention of the Hon. Members of this House.

Accordingly, I would like to further inform you that since both the Backbencher Committee and the Committee on Parliamentary Business have agreed to the current procedure for setting dates for questions for oral answers and including them in the Order Paper, the said procedure will continue to be implemented in the same manner hereafter as well.

Accordingly, I sincerely expect your cooperation in working in the future based on this procedure currently in place.

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Annual Report of the Urban Settlement Development Authority for the year 2024 and moved that report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development .

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Reports on the observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government and the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that those reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning presented the Report on the observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Labour in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund for the year 2017 and moved that the report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Building Materials Corporation Limited for the year 2017 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara presented a petition dated 01.12.2025 from Mr. P. Thilakarathne De Silva of No 28/3, Mahathanna, Muththettuwegama, Belihuloya.
- (2) Hon. Nishantha Perera presented a petition dated 22.12.2025 from Mr. T.A. Wijaya Kumara of No 73, Neluwa, Pokunugama, Maha Induruwa.
- (3) Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha presented a petition dated 26.07.2025 from Mr. N.K. Wakkumbura of Sukhitha, Meehitiya, Malwala Junction, Rathnapura.
- (4) Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha presented a petition dated 09.06.2025 from Mr. H. Jothipala of No. 702, Kolonna Watta, Buthkanda, Boraluwage Ayina.
- (5) Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi presented a petition dated 08.10.2025 from Mr. Don Damshri Lasantha Koralevidanage and Nineteen others of No. J/6, Anderson Flats, Park Road, Colombo 05.

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

4. 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 11.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Adjournment (Report of the Annual Economic Review of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2025) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated

(At 11.49 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 1.56 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Vocational Education moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.29 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning moved,— That Hon. Upul Kithsiri do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.43 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

Debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on a future date.

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 Thursday, May 21st, 2026.