



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 175.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

369/2025

Hon. Ajith P. Perera,— To ask the Minister of Defence,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of employees working at the Department of Meteorology;
 - (ii) of the methods by which the Department collects meteorological information and the number of times such data is collected within a day, separately;
 - (iii) of the names of the international organizations with which the information collected by the Department is shared;
 - (iv) whether the methods used to collect meteorological information and the data shared with international organizations conform to international standards; and
 - (v) of the steps that will be taken to improve the Department?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

473/2025

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,— (1)

- (c) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the total number of Free Trade Zones established in the country and the number of factories operating in each zone, separately;
 - (ii) of the nature of production carried out in those factories;
 - (iii) whether such production includes, ready-made garments and other export products; and
 - (iv) of the number of male and female employees working in those factories, separately?

(2)

(b) Will he also inform this House of the —

- (i) export earnings generated from such products during the last 05 years, separately;
- (ii) measures that can be taken to increase export earnings; and
- (iii) problems faced by exporters in promoting their exports?

(c) If not, why?

3.

654/2025

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) of the number of times taxes on cigarettes have been revised from the year 2023 to date;
- (ii) of the aforesaid revisions;
- (iii) of the annual revenue received by the government from the taxes levied on cigarettes;
- (iv) of the amount of tax levied on one product in the cigarette category (one cigarette) during the last tax revision;
- (v) of the market price of an aforesaid product before the tax increase;
- (vi) of the market price of a product after the tax revision;
- (vii) of the objective expected of levying taxes on cigarette products; and
- (viii) whether actions will be taken to provide the necessary facilities to increase cigarette production with the aim of increasing government revenue?

(b) If not, why?

4.

706/2025

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) of the date on which the Thalvitigala Reservoir Project was initiated;
- (ii) of the objectives of the said Project;
- (iii) of the names of the companies that have signed contracts for the said Project;
- (iv) of the amount of money that has been spent on the said Project so far;

(3)

- (v) whether he is aware that the said Project has been halted by now;
and
 - (vi) of the steps that will be taken in future regarding the said Project?
- (b) If not, why?

5.

986/2025

Hon. Kins Nelson,— To ask the Minister of Health and Mass Media,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
- (i) operational profit/loss of the Postal Department in each year separately from 2015 up to now;
 - (ii) number of post offices that are currently operational;
 - (iii) names of the post offices that are expected to be newly established;
 - (iv) factors that are being taken into consideration when establishing a new post office;
 - (v) number of vacancies that exist in the Department at present;
 - (vi) number of vehicles that belong to the Department and the number of vehicles that have been recommended for auction therefrom; and
 - (vii) measures that will be taken to strengthen the Department?
- (b) If not, why?

6.

1218/2025

Hon. S.M. Marikkar,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— (1)

- (a) Will she inform this House —
- (i) of the number of buildings currently available in the Bambalapitiya Muslim Ladies' College;
 - (ii) whether she is aware that several buildings among them are more than 75 years old;
 - (iii) out of the said buildings, of the number of those that have become dilapidated and unusable;
 - (iv) whether there is an arrangement in place to renovate those buildings; and
 - (v) if so, of the timeframe during which such arrangement will be implemented?
- (b) If not, why?

(4)

7.

1667/2025

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake,— To ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of Sri Lankans currently employed in Israel;
 - (ii) whether new job opportunities have been made available in Israel for Sri Lankans in the future; and
 - (iii) if so, of the procedure adopted in selecting workers for such job opportunities?
- (b) If not, why?

8.

2182/2026

Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri,— To ask the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) year in which the Kurunegala-Habarana Railway Project was initiated;
 - (ii) estimated total cost for the aforesaid project;
 - (iii) company contracted to implement the project; and
 - (iv) duration of the project?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of plots of land proposed to be acquired for the project;
 - (ii) of the number of plots of land acquired out of those proposed after paying compensation;
 - (iii) of the parties/individuals currently occupying the lands acquired after paying compensation;
 - (iv) of the overall progress of this project;
 - (v) whether it is intended to continue with the project; and
 - (vi) if not, of the reasons therefor?
- (c) If not, why?

(5)

9.

2185/2026

Hon. Ajith Gihan,— To ask the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) whether there is a programme to provide compensation to prawn farmers in the Puttalam district for the damages caused by Cyclone ‘Ditwah’;
 - (ii) if so, of the said programme;
 - (iii) whether there is a programme for the development of prawn industry, since it is a major industry that generates foreign exchange to the country;
 - (iv) if so, of the said programme;
 - (v) whether the problems encountered in exporting the products of prawn farmers have been identified; and
 - (vi) if so, of the measures that have been taken to resolve the said problems?
- (b) If not, why?

10.

2191/2026

Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— (1)

- (a) Will she inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of officers serving as principals in the school system of the country who belong to the Sri Lanka Educational Administrative Service, the Sri Lanka Principals’ Service and the Sri Lanka Teachers’ Service, separately;
 - (ii) of the allowances payable to officers of each of the above 03 services in addition to their salary while serving as principals, stated separately for each service;
 - (iii) whether it is mandatory for officers belonging to the Sri Lanka Educational Administrative Service to have served as a principal of a national school to become eligible for promotions;
 - (iv) if so, of that period of service;
 - (v) of the period of time taken for an officer appointed to Grade III of the Sri Lanka Principals’ Service to be promoted to Grade II and Grade I; and

(6)

(vi) of the required qualifications that be fulfilled by such officers to become eligible for the said promotions?

(b) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Motions

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka,— Privileges,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matters raised by the Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna, M.P. on 07th July, 2026 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*1.

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*2.

Chief of Defence Staff (Repeal) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*3.

Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*4.

Protection of Occupants Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*5.

Rent (Repeal) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*6.

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill — Adjourned debate on question (24th September 2025) [1].

*7.

Telecommunication Levy (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

(7)

*8.

Finance (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)

*9.

Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the establishment and maintenance of places of unlawful detention and torture chambers at the Batalanda Housing Scheme,—
Adjourned debate on question (10th April 2025) Motion made and question proposed,—
“Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the establishment and maintenance of places of unlawful detention and torture chambers at the Batalanda Housing Scheme, which was tabled in Parliament on 14th March 2025, be considered by Parliament.”

10.

Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

11.

Institute of Facilities Management Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

12.

Land Development (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

13.

Kodhagoda Gunarathana Nahimi Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

14.

Tredzo Development Foundation (Incorporation) Bill — Second Reading.

** Indicates Government Business.*

[1].

Motion made and question proposed “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

QUESTIONS NOT FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

893/2025

Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah, — To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation,— (3)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) whether he is aware that persons are residing on state lands in the Koralaipattu North, Vakarai Divisional Secretariat Division of the Batticaloa district without a ‘Deed of Grant’ or a ‘Land Permit’ awarded by the government;
- (ii) if so, of the number of such individuals, their names and relevant details;

(8)

- (iii) whether the respective Divisional Secretary has filed action at the court of law against them during the period from 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2025 to legally evict those individuals from the state lands referred to above;
- (iv) if so, of the number of such individuals, their names and relevant details;
- (v) of the number of evicted individuals from the state lands on court orders during the said period along with their names and relevant details, out of the total number of individuals prosecuted by the relevant Divisional Secretary;
- (vi) whether there are persons against whom the Divisional Secretary has not filed action although he should have;
- (vii) if so, of the number of such persons, their names and relevant details; and
- (viii) of the reasons for filing action against only a few of them while not filing action against most?

(b) If not, why?

2.

894/2025

Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah, — To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation,— (3)

(a) Will he inform the House —

- (i) whether he is aware that people have settled in the state lands for which 'Deeds of Grant' or 'Land Permits' were given during the period from 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2025 out of the state lands situated in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Koralaipattu South, Kiran in the Batticaloa District; and
- (ii) if so, of total number of such people, their names and relevant details?

(b) If not, why?

3.

895/2025

Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah, — To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation,— (3)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) whether he is aware that the landless persons have applied to the Koralaipattu South, Kiran Divisional Secretariat with the aim of acquiring land during the period from 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2025;

(9)

- (ii) if so, of the number of such persons, their names and relevant details;
 - (iii) whether such persons have been issued with Deeds of Grant or Land Permits; and
 - (iv) if so, of the number of such persons along with their names and relevant details?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
- (i) whether he is aware that the majority of the persons who have settled down in government lands in the Koralaipattu South, Kiran Divisional Secretariat Division have not been issued with Deeds of Grant or Land Permits so far;
 - (ii) if so, of the number of such persons, their names and relevant details; and
 - (iii) of the reasons for not issuing Deeds of Grant or Land Permits to the aforementioned persons so far?
- (c) If not, why?
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