



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 158.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, June 24, 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.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy

Hon. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

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. 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. Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

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. Gamagedara Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

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. 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. Hector Appuhamy

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, Attorney at Law

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

Hon. B. Ariyawansha

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. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
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. Chathura 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. (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. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha 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. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Amila Prasad
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. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath 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. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
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. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
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. (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 —

- (i) Annual Report of the Development Lotteries Board for the year 2024;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Management Services for the year 2025;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of Government Valuation for the year 2025; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Treasury Operations for the year 2025

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) 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 Prime Minister's Office in the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and
- (ii) 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 Administrative Appeals Tribunal 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 Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Report on the observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka in the Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

(4) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties (Gazette Extraordinary No. 2478/03 of 03rd March 2026) and moved that the Resolution be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Leader of the House of Parliament for the year 2025 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2024; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the —

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 regarding CESS levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2478/04 of 03rd March 2026; and
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 regarding the rates of CESS levy to be levied and paid, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2479/38 of 10th March 2026

and moved that those Orders be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Health and Mass Media 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 Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government 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.

(9) The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Ministry of Energy presented the Report on the observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 120(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Annual Report of the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented —

- (i) A petition dated 10.08.2025 from Mr. A.S. Silva of No. 477/93, St. Anthony's Mawatha, Liyanagemulla, Seeduwa; and
- (ii) A petition dated 13.07.2025 from Mrs. J.C. Kanthilatha Ramya of No. 226/C, Ruksewana, Deenapamunuwa, Urapola.

(1) Hon. Kins Nelson presented a petition dated 22.09.2025 from Mr. W.M. Senarath Bandara of No. 100/1, Weerawanni Mawatha, Puranagama, Giritale, Polonnaruwa.

(2) Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 06.06.2025 from Mr. R.M.N.B. Rasnayake of 'Wasala', Walas Wewa, Mahawa.

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

3. Privileges (No. 1): Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, seconded by Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam, M.P. on 21st May, 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Privileges (No. 2): Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, seconded by Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. S.M. Marikkar, M.P. on 13th November, 2025 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Privileges (No. 3): Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, seconded by Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna, M.P. on 10th June, 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. National Environmental (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Environment moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 12.07 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs moved,— That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.10 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs moved,— That Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.13 p.m. Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi took the Chair.)

(At 4.20 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

(At 4.54 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 113; Noes: 10.

The following One Hundred and Twenty Three (123) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 001. K.V. Samantha Viddyarathna	Yes
G 005. Nalinda Jayatissa	Yes
G 009. Ramalingam Chandrasekar	Yes
G 010. Wasantha Samarasinghe	Yes
G 012. Chrishantha Abeysena	Yes
G 013. Anil Jayantha	Yes

G 014. Harshana Nanayakkara	Yes
G 015. Dammika Patabendi	Yes
G 016. Saroja Savithri Paulraj	Yes
G 017. Ananda Wijepala	Yes
G 018. Hiniduma Sunil Senevi	Yes
G 020. Susil Ranasinghe	Yes
G 023. Upali Pannilage	Yes
G 024. Kumara Jayakody	Yes
G 026. Nihal Abeysinghe	Yes
G 027. Namal Karunaratne	Yes
G 030. R.M. Jayawardhana	Yes
G 031. Sunil Watagala	Yes
G 032. Rathna Gamage	Yes
G 033. Mahinda Jayasinghe	Yes
G 034. Chathuranga Abeysinghe	Yes
G 036. Upali Samarasingha	Yes
G 037. T.B. Sarath	Yes
G 040. Anton Jayakody	Yes
G 041. Hemali Weerasekara	Yes
G 047. Namal Sudarshana	Yes
G 049. Madhura Senevirathna	Yes
G 050. Arun Hemachandra	Yes
G 057. Dinindu Saman	Yes
G 058. Nishantha Jayaweera	Yes
G 059. Asoka Ranwala	Yes
G 060. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi	Yes
G 062. Najith Indika	Yes
G 063. Lakmali Hemachandra	Yes
G 064. Samanmali Gunasingha	Yes
G 065. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake	Yes
G 066. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi	Yes
G 067. K. Ilankumaran	Yes
G 068. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha	Yes
G 069. Ajith Agalakada	Yes
G 070. Sagarika Athauda	Yes
G 071. Roshan Akmeemana	Yes
G 072. U. P. Abeywickrama	Yes

G 073. L.M. Abeywickrama	Yes
G 074. M.K.M. Aslam	Yes
G 075. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana	Yes
G 076. Oshani Umanga	Yes
G 077. Krishnan Kalaichelvi	Yes
G 078. Upul Kithsiri	Yes
G 079. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara	Yes
G 080. Chaminda Lalith Kumara	Yes
G 082. Nilanthi Kottahachchi	Yes
G 083. M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani	Yes
G 084. Darmapriya Wijesinghe	Yes
G 085. Thilanka U. Gamage	Yes
G 086. Nilusha Lakmali Gamage	Yes
G 088. Ajith Gihan	Yes
G 090. Aboobucker Athambawa	Yes
G 091. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody	Yes
G 092. Thushari Jayasingha	Yes
G 093. T.K. Jayasundara	Yes
G 094. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran	Yes
G 095. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy	Yes
G 096. Sellaththamby Thilaganathan	Yes
G 097. Sugath Wasantha de Silva	Yes
G 098. Anushka Thilakarathne	Yes
G 099. Chandana Thennakoon	Yes
G 100. Thanura Dissanayake	Yes
G 101. Dharmapriya Dissanayake	Yes
G 102. Sujeewa Dissanayake	Yes
G 103. Kanthasamy Prabu	Yes
G 104. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna	Yes
G 105. Sena Nanayakkara	Yes
G 106. Aruna Panagoda	Yes
G 107. Nimal Palihena	Yes
G 108. Nishantha Perera	Yes
G 109. Stepni Fernando	Yes
G 110. Susantha Dodawatta	Yes
G 111. Lal Premanath	Yes
G 112. Nanda Bandara	Yes

G 113. Padmasiri Bandara	Yes
G 114. Ravindra Bandara	Yes
G 115. Sudath Balagalla	Yes
O 015. G.G. Ponnambalam	No
O 019. Sivagnanam Shritharan	No
O 039. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran	No
O 040. Gnanamuththu Srineshan	No
O 057. M.S. Uthumalebbe	No
O 059. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan	No
O 060. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran	No
O 063. Nizam Kariapper	No
O 065. E. M. Basnayaka	Yes
O 068. Prageeth Madhuranga	Yes
O 070. Ruwan Mapalagama	Yes
O 071. Nandana Millagala	Yes
O 072. Riyas Farook	Yes
O 079. Elayathamby Srinath	No
O 080. Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam	No
O 083. Sunil Rathnasiri	Yes
O 084. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka	Yes
O 085. A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe	Yes
O 086. Manoj Rajapaksha	Yes
O 087. Sunil Rajapaksha	Yes
O 088. Hasara Liyanage	Yes
O 089. Deepthi Wasalage	Yes
O 090. Kanchana Welipitiya	Yes
O 091. R. G. Wijerathna	Yes
O 092. Nishantha Samaraweera	Yes
O 093. Priyantha Wijerathna	Yes
O 095. Lasith Bhashana Gamage	Yes
O 097. Athula Welandagoda	Yes
O 098. Fasmin Sharif	Yes
O 100. Ambika Samivel	Yes
O 102. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi	Yes
O 105. Janaka Senarathna	Yes
O 106. Chandima Hettiaratchi	Yes
O 107. Champika Hettiarachchi	Yes

O 109. Geetha Herath	Yes
O 110. Bhagya Sri Herath	Yes
O 111. Muhammad Faizal	Yes
O 112. Ashoka Gunasena	Yes
O 113. Nandana Pathmakumara	Yes
O 114. Sunil Biyanwila	Yes

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Environment 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 Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 were agreed to.

Clause 8

The Minister of Environment proposed an amendment to delete lines 10 and 11 and substitute the following in page 7:—

“the Director-General, subject to environmental recommendations in terms of subsection 2A; and”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete lines 16 and 17 and substitute the following in page 7:—

“to the Director- General to obtain environmental recommendation.
The Director- General shall forward such”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete line 23 and substitute the following in page 7:—

“the environmental recommendation.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete line 25 and substitute the following in page 7:—

“construction on the site unless the environmental recommendation has been”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete line 27 to line 29 (both inclusive) and substitute the following in page 7:—

“(2C) Every environmental recommendation shall be valid for not more than a period of twelve months from the date of obtaining such recommendation. Any environmental recommendation may be renewed for a”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 13 were agreed to.

Clause 14

The Minister of Environment proposed an amendment to delete lines 19 to 21 (both inclusive) and substitute the following in page 15:—

“(a) the import, export, transit and transshipment of hazardous and other waste;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete line 27 and substitute the following in page 15:—

“on transit or transshipment any prescribed hazardous waste or”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete line 7 and substitute the following in page 18:—

“or any officer authorized in that behalf. Any person applying for a permit shall pay a prescribed fee. No”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete lines 7 to 15 (both inclusive) and substitute the following in page 19:—

“wastewater
discharge fee

23FF (1) The Minister shall by Order published in the *Gazette* specify the wastewater discharge fee in respect of the waste water load discharged from factories and other sources. The Minister may prescribe the formula for computing the said fee considering the pollutants discharged and its effect on the environment.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 15 to 26 were agreed to.

Clause 27

The Minister of Environment proposed an amendment to delete line 30 and substitute the following in page 39:—

“undertaken by producers independently or in conjunction”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete lines 4 and 5 and substitute the following in page 40:—

“which requires the producer of any goods or”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete line 9 and substitute the following in page 40:—

“reuse or by disposal in a manner acceptable to the Authority.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete lines 15 and 16 and substitute the following in page 40:—

“(3) Every producer of any goods or products”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete lines 9 to 14 (both inclusive) and substitute the following in page 41:—

“producer means, a person who deals with goods or products-

(a) as a manufacturer; or

(b) as an importer or brand owner or otherwise,

in compliance with written law.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 28 to 39 were agreed to.

Clause 40

The Minister of Environment proposed an amendment to delete line 13 and substitute the following in page 52:—

“(s) the procedure for application of environmental recommendation”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 41

The Minister of Environment proposed an amendment to delete line 5 and substitute the following in page 53:—

“Authority referred to under section 13;

- (3) by the insertion immediately after the definition of the expression “environmental impact assessment report” of the following new definition:-

“environmental recommendation” means an approval issued by the Authority prior to siting or locating of a prescribed activity;”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Environment proposed another amendment to delete lines 9 to 12 (both inclusive) in page 55.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 42 was agreed to.

General Amendment

The Minister of Environment proposed a general amendment to delete the words “policy, strategy, plan or programme” whenever those words appear in the Act and substitute the words “policy, plan or programme”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the General Amendment stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and the Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill Reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Environment moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

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

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.11 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, June 25th, 2026.