



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 159.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. (Dr.) Rizvie Salih, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. (Mrs.) Hemali Weerasekara, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Honourable Anura Kumara Dissanayake, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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. 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 Vidyaratna, 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. 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. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways

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. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Muneer Mulafter, 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. 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. 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. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

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. M.K.M. Aslam

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna 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 Kugathan

Hon. Sarath Kumara, 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. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
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. 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. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath
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. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thurairosa Ravikaran
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera

Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi

Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj

Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna

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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Digital Economy for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Science, Technology and Digital Transformation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report of the National Education Commission 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.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the National Credit Guarantee Institution Limited for the year 2024;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation for the year 2024; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Planning 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.

(4) 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 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Parliament of Sri Lanka 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.

(5) 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 Health 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.

(6) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Health and Mass Media 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 Industry and Entrepreneurship Development and Department of Textile Industries 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.

(8) The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Coconut Development Authority for the year 2023;
and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority for the year 2024;

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat Gampaha 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.

(10) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year 2023 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Science, Technology and Digital Transformation.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. (Mrs.) Hemali Weerasekara, Deputy Chairperson of Committees presented the Second and Third Reports of the Ministerial Consultative Committees for the First Session of the Tenth Parliament only in Sinhala language with the special leave of the House.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Energy presented the Report of the said Committee on Order made by the then Minister of Energy under Section 1(2) of the Sri Lanka Electricity Act, No. 36 of 2024 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2478/41 of 05th March 2026 which was referred to the Committee

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. K.V. Samantha Vidyaratna presented a petition dated 02.07.2025 from Mr. A.D. Samaraweera of Sandasiripaya, Ekanayaka Mawatha, Hali-Ela.
- (2) Hon. Arun Hemachandra presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 26.09.2025 from Mr. H.A.P. Dharmasena of No. 43/1, Near Regional Health Centre, Dhanyagama, China Bay;
 - (ii) A petition dated 05.08.2025 from Mr. Karuna Dewage Weerasinghe of No. 7/102, 6th Lane, Light Road, Kanthale; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 10.04.2026 from Mrs. W.A.K.G.E. Lakshmi Kumari Wijesinghe of No. 109/A, Bandaranayake Mawatha, Abhayapura, Trincomalee.

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

4. Sitzings of the Parliament: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of 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.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Leave to introduce Bill: The Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna, seconded by Hon. Dinesh Hemantha moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Health and Mass Media for report.

6. Adjournment (Combatting The Drug Menace): The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

(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.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.15 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Science and Technology moved,— That Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.12 p.m. Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.16 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

Debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Friday, June 26th, 2026.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.46 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, June 26th, 2026.