



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 162.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, July 08, 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.) A.H.M.H. Abayarathna, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

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. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. K.V. Samantha Viddyarathna, 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
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- 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. 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 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. 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. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

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

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna

Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam

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.) 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. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Kumara Jayakody
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
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. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
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. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Sanjeewa 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. Thurairosa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
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. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim

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 Speaker took the Chair.

1. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the First Installment – Part XLIII and Fourth Installment – Parts XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX and XXX 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 Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Project Management and Monitoring for the year 2025;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Trade and Investment Policy for the year 2025;
- (iii) Performance Report of the Department of National Budget for the year 2025;
- (iv) Performance Report of the Department of Imports and Exports Control for the year 2025;
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Public Finance for the year 2025;
- (vi) Annual Performance Report of the Department of External Resources for the year 2025;
- (vii) Performance Report of the Department of State Accounts for the year 2025; and
- (viii) Performance Report of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development 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.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Public Service Commission for the year 2025; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for the year 2025

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation presented the Annual Performance Report of the Agriculture and Livestock Divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation for the year 2025 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure for the year 2025 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the Performance Report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the year 2025 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Legal Draftsman's Department for the year 2025;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Prisons for the year 2025;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Debt Conciliation Board for the year 2025; and
- (iv) Performance Report of the Ministry of Justice and National Integration for the year 2025

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment for the year 2025 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Women and Child Affairs presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs for the year 2025 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Report of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways and Urban Development on Regulations made by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development under Sections 141, 143, 144, 157A, 168 and 190 read with Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2480/22 of 19th March 2026 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on the —

- (i) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2478/03 of 03rd March 2026); and
- (ii) Orders under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 (Published in the Gazettes Extraordinary No. 2478/04 of 03rd March 2026 and No. 2479/38 of 10th March 2026)

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 09.03.2026 from Mr. L.C.S. Liyanage of No. 49/1, Ruwangiri Uyana, Malkaduwwa Circular Road, Malkaduwwa, Kurunegala.
- (2) Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage presented a petition dated 19.04.2026 from Mr. H.W. Duminda Iroshaman of Maragahakoratuwa, Thalaramba, Kamburugamuwa.
- (3) Hon. M.A.M. Thahir presented a petition dated 15.07.2025 from Mr. H.M. Azam of No. 331/B, Hijra Road, Natapiddimunai - 04, Kalmunai.

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 3.30 p.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. Regulations under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act: The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 17 read with Section 11 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, No. 28 of 2005 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2468/06 of 23rd December 2025, which were presented on 23.06.2026, be approved.

(At 11.24 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock moved,— That Hon. M.K.M. Aslam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.28 p.m. Hon. M.K.M. Aslam took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.43 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance: The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties, which was presented on 24.06.2026, be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2478/03 of 03rd March 2026).

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act: The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development under Sections 141, 143, 144, 157A, 168 and 190 read with Section 237 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2480/22 of 19th March 2026, which were presented on 23.06.2026, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 1): The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 24.06.2026, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act (No. 2): The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That the 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, which was presented on 24.06.2026, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment (Issues Faced by Migrant Workers): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

(At 4.05 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.37 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, July 09th, 2026.