



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 164.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, July 10, 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. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

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 Vidyaratna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

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

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. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply

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. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama

Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
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 Kugathan
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. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Kumara Jayakody
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law

Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
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. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Padmasiri 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. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake

Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
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. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
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. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
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. Dinesh Hemantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law
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 announcement:—

“In terms of the Standing Order No. 113(2) of Parliament, I have nominated the following Members as Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for the consideration of the ‘Online Safety (Repeal)’ Bill :—

Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne

Hon. Ajith P. Perera

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

Hon. Chathura Galappaththi

Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe

Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law”.

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Kelaniya 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.

(2) Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Inland Revenue Department for the year 2025 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Performance Report of the Judges of the Superior Courts 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.

(4) 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 Election Commission in the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament;

- (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 Audit Service Commission in the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and
- (iii) 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 Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption 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.

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

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 20 read with Sections 4(1), 6 and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2493/03 of 15th June 2026; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 20 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2493/39 of 18th June 2026

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Mass Media Division of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media for the year 2025; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Information for the year 2025

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 Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation presented the Annual Performance Report of the Irrigation Department 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.

(8) The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented the Annual Report of the Janatha Estates Development Board for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the Performance Report of the Fisheries Reward Fund 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.

(10) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Energy for the year 2025 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Environment presented the Performance Report of the Department of Forest Conservation 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.

(12) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Police for the year 2025; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Immigration and Emigration 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.

(13) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Report of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation 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. Presentation of Reports from Committees: 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 the Fraud Linked to Cybercrime in the US Dollar 2.5 Million Debt Repayment to Australia only in English language with special leave of the House.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka presented a petition dated 10.12.2025 from Mr. L.A. Susantha of No. 351/1, Thanayam Kanda, Kurundugaha, Elpitiya.
- (2) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 12.02.2026 from Mr. H.P.I.U.K. Karunadheera of No. 25/H/7, Sri Saranankara Road, Rilawala, Polgasowita; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 12.02.2026 from Mr. W.G.G.B. Rajapakshe of No. 38 G, Thotupola Road, Bamunumulla, Bandaragama.
- (3) Hon. D. V. Chanaka presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 25.07.2025 from Mrs. T.H. Rohini Deepika of Kotaambagahawatta, Seenimodara, Nakulugamuwa; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 29.07.2025 from Mr. W.N.U.L. Karunarathne of School Road, Polpitiya, Metikumbura, Polgahawela.
- (4) Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama presented a petition dated 03.07.2025 from Mr. R. Sumanadasa of Samanthi, Lenabatuwa, Kamburupitiya.
- (5) Hon. Sunil Biyanwila presented a petition dated 16.10.2025 from Mr. H.A.A. Nayanananda of No. 194/1, Rathmalagala, Pattiwela, Galewela.

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

(At 11.37 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

5. Business of the Parliament: The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 24(2) of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Preservation of places of historical value in Sri Lanka, including Maduwanwela Walawwa, which belongs to the Kolonna Divisional Secretariat Division of the Ratnapura District: Hon. Upul Kithsiri, seconded by Hon. Chandana Thennakoon moved,— That this Parliament resolves that whereas there are many places of historical value in Sri Lanka including the Maduwanwela Walawwa, a historical place belonging to the Kolonna Divisional Secretariat Division of the Ratnapura district, whereas such places have attracted tourists and such places have become extremely unsafe at present, the government should formulate a course of action to save them for posterity for utilizing them for the tourism industry while preserving such places without damaging their original antiquity and promptly surveying and settling the lands belonging to such places. (P. 55/2025)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Appointment of a trained student counsellor to every school for the educational development, vocational development and personal social development of school children: Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law, seconded by Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should take necessary steps to appoint a trained student counsellor to every school for the sake of educational development, vocational development, and personal social development of school children, whereas various psychological disturbances are currently observed among many school children and these conditions indirectly affect their physical and social well-being, and whereas teachers are appointed as student counsellors and the service expected from them has not been effectively delivered in some instances despite their being appointed as such due to their role of school teachers impinging, and whereas the necessity for a student counsellor has emerged in every school. (P. 58/2025)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Formulation of a pension scheme for the Sri Lankans working abroad, who are styled as “Rata Viruwan” (Migrant Heroes): Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna, seconded by Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should formulate a pension scheme by establishing a pension fund using a certain percentage of the money received from the Sri Lankan labour force working overseas as foreign exchange, whereas the contribution of them is very significant in revitalizing the national economy of Sri Lanka, and whereas the said employees have to undergo various difficulties by being unable to engage in a job after returning to Sri Lanka while living with their children after working abroad for many years due to the economic crisis. (P. 59/2025)

(At 1.59 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Formulation of a system to prevent the sale of unhealthy food to children in school canteens within the school system of Sri Lanka: Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should introduce and implement restrictions on the types of food and beverages permitted for sale in school canteens, in order to control the diabetes condition among school children in Sri Lanka, whereas specialist doctors have pointed out that diabetes is now widely diagnosed among school children in Sri Lanka, and whereas the types of food consumed, as well as dietary habits and eating patterns, are major causes of diabetes, and whereas food items containing high amounts of sugar and flour, which contribute to diabetes, along with foods such as fried rice, kottu, and instant noodles, are being sold in large quantities to schoolchildren through school canteens within the Sri Lankan school system. (P. 61/2025)

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Promoting tourism services and economic development in Jaffna: Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy, seconded by Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah moved,— That this Parliament resolves that Jaffna and Northern Sri Lanka be recognized as key tourism hubs and steps should be taken to support the creation of a centralized tourism platform in Jaffna to connect travelers from across the country and abroad with local hotels, restaurants, and service providers, promoting authentic travel experiences, by encouraging and facilitating the establishment of tourism service businesses that empower local operators and promote cultural heritage, supporting policies and investments that enhance infrastructure, digital connectivity, and marketing to boost tourist arrivals and satisfaction in Northern Sri Lanka, promoting public-private partnerships to foster sustainable tourism development and economic growth in the Jaffna region, and by monitoring the impact of such initiatives on local employment and business opportunities, aiming for sustainable economic benefits within 12 to 18 months, whereas promoting tourism services and economic development could strengthen the local tourism economy, create jobs, and showcase Jaffna as a vibrant cultural destination. (P. 70/2025)

The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment moved,— That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.21 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

Question put and agreed to.

11. Adjournment (National Programme to Transform Sri Lanka into a Leading Global Tourism Destination): Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.27 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21st, 2026.