



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 165.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, July 21, 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. (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. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

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.) Hiniiduma 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. (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. Muneer Mullafer, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

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. Roshan Akmeemana

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa

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

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana

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. Gayantha Karunathilleka

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi

Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC

Hon. Upul Kithsiri

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. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal 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. 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. 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. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
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. 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. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar

Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoo
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
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. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera

Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi

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. Chandima Hettiaratchi

Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi

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

Hon. Dinesh Hemantha

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law

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 —

- (i) Third Installment – Part XXIV of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2021;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part LXXI of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2022; and
- (iii) Second Installment – Part LXI, Third Installment – Part XXVII and Ninth Installment – Part XLV 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 Reports do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

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

- (i) Performance Reports of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for the Third and Fourth Quarters of the year 2025; and
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Delimitation Commission for the year 2025

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.
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 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Department of Examinations, 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.

(4) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development 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 Mass Media and the institutions coming under its purview 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 Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation presented the Performance Report of the Land Use Policy Planning 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.

(6) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development 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 Fisheries 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.

(7) The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development presented the —

- (i) 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 Lanka Sathosa Limited in the Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament; and
- (ii) 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 Lalith Athulathmudali Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund in the Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented the Annual Report of the National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka 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.

(9) The Minister of Justice and National Integration 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 Justice and National Integration and the institutions coming under its purview 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.

(10) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Performance Report of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs 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.

(11) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs 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 Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and the institutions coming under its purview 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.

(12) The Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Community Water Supply for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law presented —

- (i) A petition dated 17.05.2026 from Mr. Indika Priyantha Epa of Infront of Nawinna Vidyalaya, Wariyapola;
- (ii) A petition dated 10.06.2026 from Mr. Jayasenage Gunarathne of House 30, Kapugollewa, Horowpathana;

- (iii) A petition dated 20.03.2026 from Mr. K.S. Abayadeera of No. 228/4, Seelawimala Mawatha, Pore, Athurugiriya;
 - (iv) A petition dated 06.02.2026 from Mrs. P. Wickramarachchi and one another of No. 1/D/04, Raththage Ara Road, Udayala, Hakuruwela; and
 - (v) A petition dated 26.04.2026 from Mr. T.M. Chaminda Kumara Tennakoon of Dolahamuna, Hettipola.
- (2) Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi presented a petition dated 22.09.2025 from Mrs. D. Renuka Edirisinghe of No. 52, Sirimal Uyana, Gedambuwana, Piliyandala.

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

3. Animals (Amendment): The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation presented,— Bill to amend the Animals Act, No. 29 of 1958.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, August 04th, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

4. National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment): The Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply presented,— Bill to amend the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Law, No. 2 of 1974.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, August 04th, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development.

5. 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 2.30 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.

6. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Questions for Oral Answers appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at the Sitting of Parliament on Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026 from the provisions of the Standing Order 35 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Select Committee of Parliament to look into and Report to Parliament on the release of 323 Containers from the Port of Colombo without undergoing mandatory physical inspection and submit its proposals and recommendations in that regard: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the time period granted to the Select Committee of Parliament to look into and Report to Parliament on the release of 323 Containers from the Port of Colombo without undergoing mandatory physical inspection and submit its proposals and recommendations in that regard, as specified in the Resolution passed by Parliament on 19 November 2025, be extended up to 21 October 2026 in terms of Standing Order 102 of the Parliament, as the Committee needs further time to report its observations to Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Decision under the Standing Orders of Parliament (No. 1): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament determines under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament, that the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts published as Parliamentary Series No. 318, and tabled in Parliament on 24th October 2025 which contains facts regarding the examination conducted by the Committee on Public Accounts on 02.04.2025 concerning “the scheme implemented during the period from 01st May 2022 to 15th September 2023 to provide fully-electric Vehicle Permits for Sri Lankans employed abroad based on their foreign remittances” shall be referred to the Attorney-General for observations and necessary action.

(At 11.40 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.21 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Decision under the Standing Orders of Parliament (No. 2): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament determines under the provisions of Standing Order 120 (4) of the Parliament, that the incidents specified in the following Annexure, which have been identified from the reports contained in the Parliamentary Series presented to Parliament in relation to the examinations conducted by the Committee on Public Enterprises into the relevant institutions during the meetings of the said Committee shall be referred to the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for necessary action:-

Annexure:

Serial No.	Institution	Date on which the Committee Meeting was held	The date on which the report was tabled in Parliament and the Parliamentary Series No.	Specific Incident/ Incidents
1.	National Gem and Jewellery Authority	05.03.2025 and 27.03.2025	04.06.2025 PS 212	1. Rough Sapphire Cluster weighing 510 Kilogramme
				2. Project to extricate the gem-bearing gravel (Illama) in Heraniyawaka.
				3. Renting a building for the National Gem and Jewellery Authority.
2.	Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital Board	15.05.2025	24.07.2025 PS 242	1. Connecting the equipment brought for the safety of the electrical system to the main system.
				2. Irregularities in paying allowances and recruitment schemes.
				3. Recruitment to Posts without Approval from the Department of Management Services.

3.	Land Reform Commission	08.05.2025 and 17.07.2025	18.12.2025 PS 391	1. Expenditure of funds from the Land Reform Commission's Fund for the Organic Fertilizer Project.
				2. Grant of land to Mr. S. R. Renganathan (Matale Baygroup Estate).
				3. Grant of land to Mrs. Malani Nanayakkara (Imbulgaswadiya, Katana).
				4. Granting of lands to employees of the Land Reform Commission.
4.	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	04.06.2025	18.12.2025 PS 392	1. Construction of the university's new library building.
				2. Irregularities occurred during the construction of the housing complex for the university staff.
				3. Purchasing library books for the Faculty of Technology during the year 2021.
				4. Unauthorized excavation of soil from the university premises.
				5. Providing a house owned by the Vice-Chancellor for a student dormitory on a lease basis.

5.	Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka	20.08.2025	18.12.2025 PS 394	1. Renovation of the Weerawila Circuit Bungalow.
6.	Lanka Sathosa Limited	10.10.2025	18.12.2025 PS 397	1. Payment of employee incentive allowances.
				2. Leasing out a 15,000 sq. ft. building owned by the company located in Kilinochchi town.
				3. Performance allowances and professional allowances.
				4. Transport allowances.
7.	Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau	27.02.2025 and 23.05.2025	08.01.2026 PS 435	1. The Bureau incurred losses due to the practice of sending housemaids abroad without providing them with residential training.
				2. Appointment of officers to Foreign Missions.
				3. "Glocal Fair" (Jayagamu Sri Lanka) program.
				4. Obtaining trade stalls for the "Glocal Fair" (Jayagamu Sri Lanka) program.
				5. Conducting the "Vigamanika Harasara" (Migrant Tribute) program.

8.	National Savings Bank	19.11.2025 and 26.11.2025	19.02.2026 PS 476	1. Loan granted to Bimputh Finance PLC.
				2. Joint Property Loan of Rs. 164.73 million granted to two individuals on 23, December, 2020.
				3. Granting a loan of Rs. 12.6 million to a borrower without considering the irregular repayment of the 10 credit facilities indicated in the report of the Credit Information Bureau.
				4. Syndicate Loan of 9 million US dollars provided by the Bank to a Maldivian company named RPI Private Limited.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment (Performance of Committee on Public Petitions of Tenth Parliament): The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development moved,— That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.05 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Defence moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.01 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.41 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026.