



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 169.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, August 04, 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. 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. 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 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. 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. 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. Hisha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi, Attorney at Law

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC

Hon. Upul Kithsiri

Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law

Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan

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. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
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. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
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. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law

Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
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. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
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
Hon. Bhagya Sri 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. Messages from the President: The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජනාධිපති
இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/7/IX/3/01

July 25, 2026

Hon. I.W.M. Jagath Wickramaratne
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,


Anura Kumara Dissanayake
President

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජය
இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Second Installment – Part LVIII and Ninth Installment – Part XXXII of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2023;
- (ii) Second Installment – Parts LXII and LXIII, Third Installment – Part XXVIII and Ninth Installment – Part XLVI of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2024; and
- (iii) Second Installment – Part II and Third Installment – Part I of the Report of the Auditor – General for the Financial Year 2025

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 Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology 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.

(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 Seven Institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development 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 Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Development Activities Programme appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.06.2026 to 30.06.2026 in terms of Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 23 of 2025.

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

(5) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Right to Information Commission for the year 2023 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Health and Mass Media 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 Ministry of Health 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 Department of Ayurveda 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.

(7) The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment 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.

(8) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Science and Technology presented the Annual Report of the National Engineering Research and Development Centre of Sri Lanka for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Science, Technology and Digital Transformation.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Environment presented the Annual Report of the Water Resources Board for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Water Supply 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.

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 Supplementary Sum under Head 240 of Programme 02 of the Appropriation Act No. 23 of 2025 for the services of the financial year commencing on 01st January, 2026, and ending on 31st December, 2026 which was referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented a petition dated 20.03.2025 from Mr. O.C.L De Silva of No.721/79, Silver-valley Estate, IIIrd Stage, Korallaima, Gonapala.
- (2) Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 08.12.2025 from Mr. W.M. Jayarathne of No.187/A, Millathe, Kirindiwela.
- (3) Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake presented a petition dated 22.09.2025 from Mr. W.H.M. Abhayarathna of No.505/30, Sinha Mawatha, Muththettugala, Kurunegala.
- (4) Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara presented a petition dated 14.05.2026 from Mr. A.S. Senaratne of Supremecity, Sinha Mawatha, Muththettugala, Kurunegala.

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

5. Chief of Defence Staff (Repeal): The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development on behalf of the Minister of Defence presented,— Bill to repeal the Chief of Defence Staff Act, No. 35 of 2009 and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, August 18th, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

6. Supplementary Sum,— Head 240,— Programme 02: The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— †That this Parliament resolves that an additional sum not exceeding Rupees Seventy One Thousand Seven Hundred million (Rs. 71,700,000,000) shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, or any other fund or finances possessed by the Government, or any loan obtained by the Government at the discretion of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, for the services of the financial year commencing on 01st January, 2026, and ending on 31st December, 2026, and that the said sum may be expended in the manner specified in the schedule hereto:-

SCHEDULE

Head 240 - Department of National Budget

Programme 02 - Development Activities

Recurrent Expenditure Rs. 71,700,000,000

Total Expenditure **Rs. 71,700,000,000**

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 3 of 2026 presented on 24th July, 2026
Total of Supplementary Estimates Nos. 1 and 2 Rs. 520,000,000,000

(At 12.05 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 2.08 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.39 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Determination under the Constitution: The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— Whereas Mrs. L. S. I. Jayarathna has been appointed as the Auditor-General with effect from 05.02.2026, as per the approval of the Constitutional Council in terms of Articles 153(1) and 41C(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka;

And whereas the duties and functions of the Auditor-General have been determined in terms of Article 154 of the Constitution, and the salary shall be determined by Parliament and shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund of the Government in terms of the Article 153(2) of the Constitution;

And whereas the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted, according to the Cabinet Decision No. අම/26/1258/801/020 and dated 06.07.2026 pursuant to the Cabinet Memorandum of 20.06.2026 submitted by the President to pay salaries to Mrs. L. S. I. Jayarathna, Auditor-General as follows:-

- (a) To place Auditor-General Mrs. L. S. I. Jayarathna, on the 5th salary step of the SL-4 salary scale (175,000 - 12x5,300 - 238,600) in accordance with the Public Administration Circular No. 10/2025 with effect from the date of her appointment on 05.02.2026, and accordingly to pay the salary placing at the salary step of Rs. 170,528/- in terms of Schedule III compatible to the salary step of Rs. 196,200/- under Schedule II of the said circular; and
- (b) To pay annual salary increments as indicated in the said salary scale and make salary conversion subject to the amendments made from time to time in the above circular.

Accordingly, that this Parliament determines that Mrs. L. S. I. Jayarathna, Auditor-General be paid the aforesaid monthly salary to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of the Government in terms of Article 153(2) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development moved,— That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

And the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on a future date.

15. Adjournment (Programme to provide Permanent Housing for Tenants):

The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.03 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, August 05th, 2026.