



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 170.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, August 05, 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.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

Hon. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

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. 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. 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. 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. (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. 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 Mulaffer**, 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. 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. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
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. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan

Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
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. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. Thanura 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. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Amila Prasad
Hon. Lal Premanath

Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
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. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilaka
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. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
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. 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
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. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bills titled ‘Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment)’, ‘Financial Transaction Reporting (Amendment)’ and ‘Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing (Amendment)’ on 04th of August 2026 in terms of the Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report of the Regional Development Bank 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.

(2) 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 National Audit Office 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.

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Textile Industry 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.

(4) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation for the years 2022 and 2023 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) 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 Uva Provincial Council and the Institutions coming under its purview 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 Eastern Provincial Council 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.

(6) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the Performance Report of the Government Analyst's Department 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.

(7) The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs presented the Performance Report of the Department of Civil Security 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.

(8) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Hindu 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: The Hon. Nimal Palihena, a member of the Committee on Public Finance on behalf of the Chair of the Committee presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on the Determination in terms of Article 153(2) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which was referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 21.07.2025 from Mr. Weerasinghe Linet Silva of No. 71/A, Alwis Place, Kalutara South and four others.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana presented a petition dated 28.08.2025 from Mr. A.M.A. Latheef of No. 427/03, Pre School Street, Hamsiya Watta, Elabadagama.
- (3) Hon. Stepni Fernando presented a petition dated 18.08.2025 from Mr. U.L.F. Nimal Perera of No. 70, Wewala, Ja-Ela.
- (4) Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka presented a petition dated 05.12.2025 from Mr. T.B. Dassanayake of District Samurdhi Office, Ampara.

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

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 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.

6. Determination under the Constitution: Adjourned debate on question (04th August 2026),— Motion made and question proposed that

“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.”

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment (Report of Committee on Public Finance, Concerning the Fraud Linked to Cybercrime in relation to US Dollars 2.5 Million Debt Repayment to Australia): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

(At 11.35 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.23 p.m. Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake took the Chair.)

The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.13 p.m. Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj took the Chair.)

The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.50 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.07 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, August 06th, 2026.