



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 173.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, August 18, 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. 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. (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 Viddyarathna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative 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. 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. 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. 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. (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. 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. 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. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna

Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam

Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi

Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi

Hon. B. Ariyawansa

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 Kugathan

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. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal 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. 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. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
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. Lal Premanath
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. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
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. 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. 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. (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

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 announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificates on the Bills titled ‘Animals (Amendment)’ and ‘National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment)’ on 18th of August 2026 in terms of the Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

II

“A Motion may be moved to refer the Question of Privilege raised by the Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna, M.P. in Parliament on 07th July 2026 to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.”

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

- (i) Fourth Installment – Part XXXI of the Report of the Auditor General for the Financial Year 2024; and
- (ii) First Installment – Part II 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 Speaker tabled the Budget Estimate of the National Audit Office for the year 2027 prepared by the National Audit Office along with the observations of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance in terms of Section 34 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

Ordered that the said Paper do lie upon the **Table** and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura 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.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2024; and
- (ii) Integrated Annual Report of the National Savings Bank 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.

(5) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Annual Report of the State Development and Construction Corporation 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.

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

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development under Section 237 read with Section 202 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2489/22 of 19th May 2026; and
- (ii) 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. 2493/19 of 17th June 2026

and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways and Urban Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Health and Mass Media 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 Ayurveda 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.

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

- (i) Annual Reports of the National Paper Company Limited for the years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018;
- (ii) Annual Report of the BCC Lanka Limited for the year 2023/2024; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka for the year 2024; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited for the year 2024/2025

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government 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 Southern 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 Northern 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.

(12) The Minister of Health and Mass Media 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 Labour 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.

(13) The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Superior Courts Complex Board of Management for the year 2025; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Registry of the Supreme Court 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.

(14) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Department of Samurdhi Development 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.

(15) The Minister of Women and Child 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 Women and Child Affairs 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.

(16) The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs 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 Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs and Two 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 Two Institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs 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.

(17) The Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply presented the Performance Report of the Department of Government Factory 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: (1) The Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, the member of the Committee on Public Finance, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee presented the Report of the said Committee on Public Finance on the —

- (i) Regulations under Section 20 read with Section 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 (Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2496/38 of 10th July 2026); and
- (ii) Resolution under Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. Hector Appuhamy, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability presented the Report of the said Committee on 'Use of Organic and Chemical Fertilizers in Sri Lanka and the Methodology for Providing Fertilizer to Farmers'.

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

(3) The Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha, the member of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital, on behalf of the Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Committee presented the Report of the said Committee on Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the Committee.

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

(4) The Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations, presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations on —

- (i) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Textile Industry for the years 2022 and 2024;
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023;
- (iii) Annual Reports of the National Enterprise Development Authority for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021;
- (iv) Annual Reports of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka limited for the years 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023; and
- (v) Annual Reports of the Lanka Mineral Sands Limited for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara presented a petition dated 11.09.2025 from Mrs. I.G. Sumanalatha of Yakeramuduketiya, Thalagama, Balangoda.
- (2) Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage presented a petition dated 22.07.2025 from Mrs. K.G. Siriyawathie of Warakapiti Kanda, Kokawala, Wanduramba.
- (3) Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara presented —
 - (i) A petition dated 25.08.2025 from Mr. D.J.H.D. Schokman of No. 207, School Lane, Dediya, Waskaduwa; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 15.12.2025 from Mrs. S. Sivakumari of Kuilkawatta, Mahagama.
- (4) Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama presented a petition dated 28.07.2025 from Mr. V.W. Abhayasundara of No. 198, Maimbula, Nittambuwa and thirty nine others.
- (5) Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam presented a petition dated 23.12.2025 from Mrs. M.P. Akila Umma of Maankulam, Neriyaikulam, Vavuniya.

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

5. Twenty Second Amendment to the Constitution: The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented,— Bill to amend the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, September 08th, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

6. Judicature (Amendment): The Minister of Justice and National Integration presented,— Bill to amend the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, September 08th, 2026, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

7. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) 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 20 read with Section 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. 2496/38 of 10th July 2026, which were presented on 07.08.2026, be approved.

(At 12.08 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 1.39 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,— That Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.50 p.m. Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.59 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,— That Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.43 p.m. Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. National Photographic Art Society of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Presiding Member to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

9. Adjournment (Grant of Appointments for Indigenous Medicine Graduates):

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.20 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Speaker pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19th, 2026.