



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 174.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, August 19, 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. (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 Vidyaratna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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. 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 Mulafter, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs

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. 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. (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 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. 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. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
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. 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. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
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. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif

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. (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 announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of three petitions in respect of the Bill titled ‘Twenty Second Amendment to the Constitution’ and a copy of a petition in respect of the Bill titled ‘Judicature (Amendment)’ filed at the Supreme Court in terms of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker tabled the Annual Work Programme of the National Audit Office for the year 2026 in terms of Section 35(5) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 which was submitted to the Speaker by the Auditor-General in terms of Section 35(1) of the said Act.

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

(2) The Speaker tabled the Financial Statements and the Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements of the National Audit Office for the year 2025 in terms of Section 36(3) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 which was submitted to the Speaker by the Auditor-General in terms of Section 36(1) of the said Act.

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

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

- (i) Annual Report of the People's Bank for the year 2025; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon 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.

(4) 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 Department of Sri Lanka Railway 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.

(5) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2023 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited 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.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) 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 —

- (i) Annual Reports of the Marine Environment Protection Authority for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023;
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Pvt) Limited for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023;
- (iii) Performance Reports of the Department of Forest Conservation for the years 2024 and 2025;
- (iv) Performance Report of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the year 2024; and
- (v) Annual Report of the Central Environmental Authority for the year 2023

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 —

- (i) Annual Reports of the Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited for the years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Company Limited for the year 2023/2024;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Irrigation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation for the year 2024;
- (iv) Annual Performance Report of the Irrigation Department for the year 2024; and
- (v) Performance Report of the Department of Agrarian Development for the year 2024

which were referred to the Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented —

- (i) A petition dated 25.08.2025 from Mr. Anil Nishantha Wickramaarachchi of No. 68/A/1, Tangalle Road, Beliatta;
- (ii) A petition dated 05.10.2025 from Mr. D.N.J. Dissanayaka of No. 2/5, Weragampita Temple Road, Uyanwatta, Matara and one another; and
- (iii) A petition dated 18.11.2025 from Mr. R.P. Ranjith Kumara of No. 137, Achariyagama, Agunukolapelessa.

(1) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented —

- (i) A petition dated 03.08.2025 from Mrs. M.U. Malshani Jayarathne of No. 424/C/2/A, Migel Senavirathne Road, Thudella, Ja-ela; and
- (ii) A petition dated 14.09.2025 from Mr. R.A. Ranasinghe of No. 62/106, Skolawatta Kadapela, Nittambuwa Road, Kirindiwela.

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

5. Anti-Corruption (Amendment): The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented,— Bill to amend the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023.

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. Resolution under the Finance Act: The Minister of Labour moved,— That this Parliament resolves under Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971 to direct the Minister as follows:—

- (a) to dissolve the Shrama Vasana Fund, established in terms of the Shrama Vasana Fund Act, No. 12 of 1998 as amended by the Act, No. 15 of 2019; and
- (b) to appoint a person or persons to be a liquidator or liquidators of the Shrama Vasana Fund established in terms of the Shrama Vasana Fund Act, No. 12 of 1998 as amended by the Act, No. 15 of 2019, for the purpose of winding up the said Public Enterprise in terms of Part II of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971.

(At 10.49 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.52 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Labour moved,— That Hon. Upul Kithsiri do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.20 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment: The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.18 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, August 20th, 2026.