



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 171.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, August 06, 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. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

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. 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. 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. Muneer Mulafter, 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. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply

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. 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. (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. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
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. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, 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. Palani Thigambaram
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. Rohana Bandara
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 Maharroof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilaka
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda 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. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
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. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Reports of the Sustainable Development Council for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 and moved that those Reports 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 Performance Report of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal 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.

(3) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Annual Performance Report of the then Ministry of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation 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.

(4) The Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development presented the 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 Geological Survey and Mines Bureau in the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Enterprises.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lankan Airlines Limited for the year 2024/2025 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 Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health 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.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Upul Kithsiri, member of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability, on behalf of the Hon. Hector Appuhamy, the Chair of the Committee presented the Report of the said Committee on Animals (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the Committee.

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

(2) The Hon. Ravindra Bandara, member of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development on behalf of the Hon. S.M. Marikkar, the Chair of the Committee presented the Report of the said Committee on National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 10.01.2026 from Mr. W.A. Kalinda Kalki of Malwana, Kanatte Wewa, Via Kurunegala.
- (2) Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 02.01.2026 from Mr. T.M.L.P.K Tennakoon of Pibidenagama, Kandilpana, Deniyaya.
- (3) Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya presented a petition dated 20.10.2025 from Mr. V.N.C. Thennakoon of No. E - 07/2, Dammala, Galigamuwa Town.

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

4. Animals (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 11.44 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports moved,— That Hon. Upul Kithsiri do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.36 p.m. Hon. Upul Kithsiri took the Chair.)

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.46 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

(At 5.11 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and the Title Stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill Reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Bill, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

5. National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation on behalf of the Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 20 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and the Title Stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill Reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply moved,— That the Bill, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

6. Adjournment: The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.08 p.m. adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, August 07th, 2026.