



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 6.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 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 Urban Development, Construction and Housing

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. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media and Chief Government Whip

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. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation 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.) 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. 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 Youth Affairs

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. 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 Mulaffer, Deputy Minister of National Integration

Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation

Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

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

Hon. Eranga Weeraratne, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

Hon. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. T. B. Sarath, Deputy Minister of Housing

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

Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning

Hon. P. Ruwan Senarath, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education

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. (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. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne

Hon. B. Ariyawansa

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

Hon. K. Ilankumaran

Hon. Arkam Ilyas

Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe

Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga

Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi

Hon. Upul Kithsiri

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

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
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
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. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. 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. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Mohamed Sali Naleem
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
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. 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. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar

Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairosa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
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. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Dinindu Saman
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasinga
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
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
Hon. Riyas Farook

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

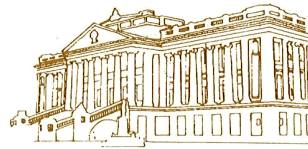
Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Official Oath or Affirmation by new Members: Hon. Mohomed Faizar Musthafa, Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Hon. Muhammedu Ismail Muththu Muhammedu and Hon. Mano Ganeshan, Members of Parliament, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the Member's Roll at the Table.

2. Resignation of the Speaker: The letters sent by the Secretary to the President to the Secretary General of Parliament informing that the President has accepted the resignation of the Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala from the Office of the Speaker will now be read out to this House by the Secretary General of Parliament.



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சனாதிபதி அலுவலகம்
PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT



මගේ අංකය : පීඑස්/පීඑස්ඒ/00/1/21

2024 දෙසැම්බර් මස 14 වන දින

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ඒ අනුව, 2024 දෙසැම්බර් මස 13 වන දින සිට ක්‍රියාත්මක වන පරිදි එකී ඉල්ලා අස්වීම ගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමා විසින් භාරගත් බව එතුමාගේ නියමය පරිදි මෙයින් කාරුණිකව දැනුම් දෙමි.

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ගාලු මුවදොර, කොළඹ 01
காலி முகத்தூண், கொழும்பு 01
Galle Face, Colombo 01

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பாராளுமன்றம்
PARLIAMENT

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13.12.2024

3. Election of a Speaker: Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, the Prime Minister addressing herself to the Deputy Speaker (stood up from her seat, pointed to him and then sat down) proposed that Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne (Member of Parliament for the Pollonnaruwa Electoral District) be the Speaker of Parliament and do take the Chair and the motion was seconded by Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, the Leader of the House of Parliament.

No other name being proposed, the Deputy Speaker declared that Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne was duly elected as the Speaker.

Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne, being escorted to the Chair from his seat by Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, the Prime Minister and Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, the Leader of the House of Parliament stood on the upper step and expressed his sincerest acknowledgment to Parliament for the great honour which Parliament had been pleased to confer upon him.

(At 9.44 a.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 11.43 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 11.51 a.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Congratulatory speeches on the appointment of the Speaker were delivered by the Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister, Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law, Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka, Hon. Mano Ganesan, Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law, Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Hon. Jeevan Thondaman, Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam, Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna, Hon. Dilith Jayaweera and Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam.

A reply speech was delivered by the Speaker.

4. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the Special Audit Report conducted on the Administrative and Operational Activities of the Sri Lanka Karate Do Federation for the period from January 2017 to March 2022 – Tenth installment of the Report of the Auditor-General, in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said, Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the University of Ruhuna for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Swamy Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Order made by the then Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 as amended relating to Colombo West International Terminal (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2401/19 of 10th September 2024

and moved that those Reports and the Order be referred to the relevant Committees.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Notes on Supplementary Allocations from the Development Activities Programme appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 21.08.2024 to 10.10.2024 and from 14.10.2024 to 25.11.2024 in terms of Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 34 of 2023.

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

(4) The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Animal Production and Health for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation presented the Report on the submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 124(6) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation in the report of the Committee on Ways and Means which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment presented the —

(i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for the year 2022; and

(ii) Annual Report of the Tourism Development Fund for the year 2022

and moved that those Reports be referred to the relevant Committees.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development presented the Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented the Report on the submission of 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 Services, Local Government and Provincial Councils and the Institutions coming under its purview in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Deputy Minister of Labour presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Manpower and Employment for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Environment presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the year 2023; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Forest Conservation for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the relevant Committees.

Question put, and agreed to.

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 6.30 p.m.. At 3.00 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 1 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 121(2) of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Supplementary Sum,— Head 102— Programme 01: The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— † That this Parliament resolves that, an additional sum not exceeding Rupees Six thousand five hundred million (Rs. 6,500,000,000) 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 January 01, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2024 and that, the said sum may be expended in the manner specified in the schedule hereto:—

Schedule

Head	102	-	Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
			(The name of the Ministry mentioned in the Appropriation Act No. 34 of 2023 has been specified)
Programme	01	-	Operational Activities
			Recurrent Expenditure
			Rs. <u>6,500,000,000</u>
			Total Expenditure
			Rs. <u>6,500,000,000</u>

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 14 of 2024 presented on 05th December, 2024.

Total of Supplementary Estimates Nos. 1 to 13 Rs. 228,123,000,000

(At 12.16 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

(At 2.11 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

And it being past 3.00 p.m. at 3.10 p.m., the debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

8. Adjournment (Government's Stance of Debt Restructuring): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.15 p.m. Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That Hon. Imran Maharoof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.24 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

(At 5.18 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

And it being 6.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Deputy Chairperson of Committees without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.