

OPPOSITION bulletin

S R I L A N K A

Parliament, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

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MPs Participated in the Debate



A government with no empathy

The request made by the Opposition to continue the debate on the 19th without a lunch break was rejected by the Government. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Chief Opposition Whip and Hon. Ranjith Madduma Bandara commented on this reaction of the government that this shows their unempathetic nature.

A special session of Parliament was convened on December 18-19, 2025, under Standing Order 16 to discuss the disaster situation caused by Cyclone Ditwah. On the 18th, the adjournment debate started at 10:00 AM to discuss the government's motion regarding the disaster caused by Cyclone Ditwah. The government moved a supplementary estimate on the 19th to pass funds for post-disaster activities.

Joining the debate during these two days, the Opposition Leader and opposition MPs pointed out that the government's activities before, during, and after the disaster were questionable.

Opposition MPs stated that they were presenting information about the disaster in their respective areas and highlighting shortcomings in government intervention from the people's perspective, not as destructive criticism.

The Opposition Leader and other MPs questioned the government's failure to properly warn the public before the disaster, the lack of systematic implementation of relief measures at the moment of the disaster, and the government's plans regarding clear mechanisms and procedures needed for post-disaster management programs.

A summary of the main proposals presented by the opposition during the debate:

- Obtaining the assistance of the Department of Census and Statistics for disaster assessment.
- Obtaining free services such as Google Crisis Response for reporting flood warnings in rivers.
- Preparing necessary regulations for installing battery backups in telephone towers and strengthening early warning services in emergency disaster situations.
- Preparing a complete Base Map using GIS technology.
- Establishing a mechanism to utilize drone technology to obtain reports on disaster damage.
- Developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all government and private institutions to successfully face emergency disaster situations.
- Introducing a coastal zone policy for Sri Lanka to formalize import and export processes.
- Acting according to the National Physical Plan.
- Reviewing the progress of Reduction of Landslide Vulnerability by Mitigation Measures (RLVMM) projects.
- Developing the Meteorological Department to an international-level.
- Problems arising from instances where instructions not to hold term examinations in schools during the existing disaster situation were not implemented.
- Appointing a Commissioner with special powers for infrastructure development.
- Obtaining confirmation regarding relocation sites for disaster victims.
- Preparing a state policy on resettlement and obtaining parliamentary approval.
- Appointing committees of selection under the supervision of the Social Security Board to expedite emergency relief mechanisms.
- Enforcing Section 11 of the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005.
- Taking measures to prevent child malnutrition and loss of educational opportunities.
- Establishing a Task Force.
- Assigning special tasks to the 07 Sectoral Oversight Committees for the coming months to actively engage Parliament in the disaster management process.
- Expediting the collection of disaster damage data.
- Promptly submitting a report to Parliament regarding the Rebuilding Sri Lanka Fund.

Committees



Committee on Public Finance



The Public Finance Committee, chaired by Hon. MP Dr. Harsha de Silva on December 18, 2025, approved a Rs. 500 billion supplementary estimate for Cyclone Ditwah relief. This will raise the primary expenditure ceiling under the PFM Act from 13% to 14.5%.



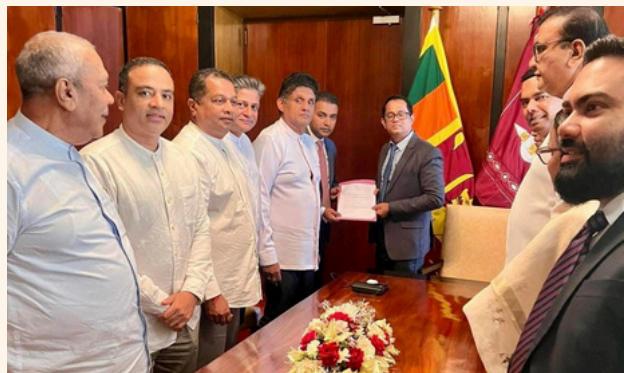
SOC - Infrastructure & Strategic Development



The Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development met in Parliament on the 11th this month, chaired by Hon. S. M. Marikkar, Member of Parliament, to discuss the nature of the current disaster in the country and the steps to be taken to assess the social, economic and environmental damage caused by it.

Secretaries of ministries and heads of institutions representing the ministries under this committee attended the meeting. Expressing his views, the Chairman of the Committee stressed the importance of preparing the necessary plans to face possible disasters in the future and said that the Sectoral Oversight Committee is ready to provide the necessary assistance to the relevant ministries and officials for that purpose.

The Opposition Leader and MPs submitted a motion to the Speaker on the 18th to appoint a Parliamentary Select Committee to study the impacts of the disaster due to failure to provide early warning about Cyclone Ditwah.



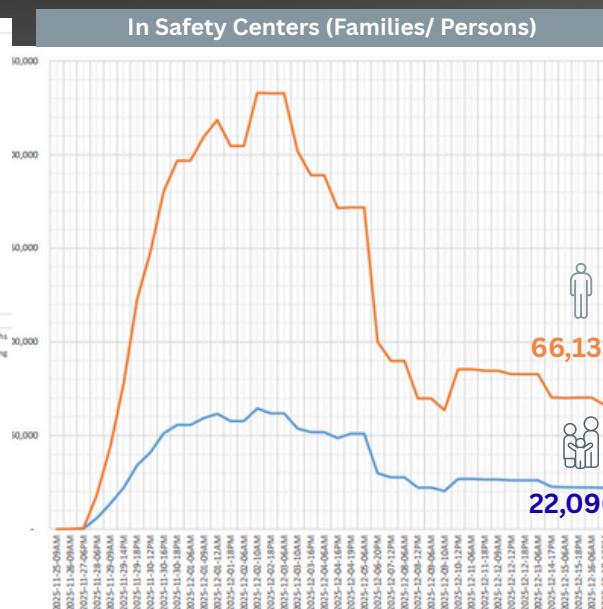
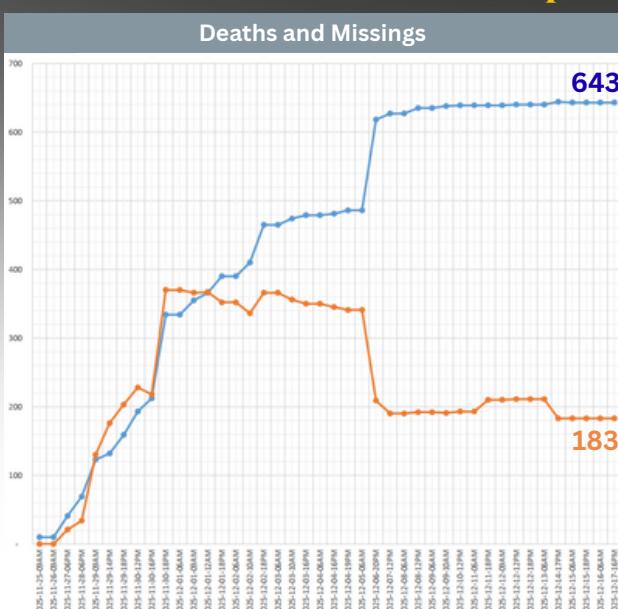
Disaster Relief Application Forms Available for Download from Opposition Leader's Office Website

Following reports that disaster relief circulars, guidelines, and application forms are unavailable from a single source, the Opposition Leader's Office has consolidated all these resources on its website. All relevant circulars, instructions, and forms will be uploaded regularly and kept current.

www.oloparliament.gov.lk



The impact on lives of the disaster



Contribution of the opposition to bring the country back to reality after the disaster caused by Cyclone Ditwa

2025 11 12	Derana Channel Big Focus program	2025 12 10	Disaster Information Centre at Opposition Leader's Office																														
2025 11 22	Lower Kadugannawa landslide	2025 12 11	Special statement Meteorological Society																														
2025 11 25	BBC weather forecast	2025 12 14	Disaster relief guidelines issued																														
2025 11 26	Heavy rainfall across many areas	2025 12 15	DMC convenes																														
2025 11 27	A/L exams postponed President holds emergency meeting with MPsa Low pressure intensifies into cyclone DMC convenes Declare emergency disaster situation - Opposition Leaders	2025 12 17	RIT for Meteorology Department - by Opposition																														
2025 11 28	Parliament convenes for a short period At least Declaration Public Emergency - Opposition Leaders Special leave for government officials Essential public services gazetted A/L exams postponed, schools closed Extended disaster situation from Nov 21 - Defence Secretary Emergency situation gazetted	2025 12 18	Opposition requests Parliamentary Special Select Committee																														
2025 11 29	Commissioner General of Essential Services appointed (post vacant for one year)	2025 12 19	Opposition agrees to Rs. 500 billion supplementary budget Opposition's request to cancel the lunch break for the debate rejected																														
2025 12 01	Opposition withdraws from Parliament	 To Download Complete Timeline																															
2025 12 02	Disaster-affected areas gazetted Rs. 25,000/- for house cleaning	Status of Government Relief Programs: Guidelines Not Yet Issued																															
2025 12 03	Opposition observes Minute of silence in Parliament																																
2025 12 05	Rs. 72.5 billion supplementary budget approved Opposition Leader calls for new budget President addresses Parliament	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No</th> <th>Relief</th> <th>Maximum Allowance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>One time allowance for Crops damages or replanting (paddy, grains, maize and field crops in agricultural lands)</td> <td>Rs.150,000/- per hectare (Application issued)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>One time allowance for Crops damages or replanting (vegetables)</td> <td>Rs.200,000/- per hectare</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>One time allowance for livestock farms affected (only for registered farm owners)</td> <td>Rs.200,000/- per farmowner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Damage compensation for the fishing boats</td> <td>Rs.400,000/- per fishing boat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Compensation for damaged business buildings</td> <td>Rs. 5,000,000/- per unit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Build a new house for completely damaged/uninhabitable houses</td> <td>Rs. 5,000,000/- per unit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Purchase a suitable land when government land can not be provided to build a new house</td> <td>Rs. 5,000,000/- per unit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Allowance to repair houses partially damaged</td> <td>Rs. 2,500,000/- per unit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>Allowance to the closest relative of a person who died/ complete disable</td> <td>Rs. 1,000,000/- per person</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		No	Relief	Maximum Allowance	1	One time allowance for Crops damages or replanting (paddy, grains, maize and field crops in agricultural lands)	Rs.150,000/- per hectare (Application issued)	2	One time allowance for Crops damages or replanting (vegetables)	Rs.200,000/- per hectare	3	One time allowance for livestock farms affected (only for registered farm owners)	Rs.200,000/- per farmowner	4	Damage compensation for the fishing boats	Rs.400,000/- per fishing boat	5	Compensation for damaged business buildings	Rs. 5,000,000/- per unit	6	Build a new house for completely damaged/uninhabitable houses	Rs. 5,000,000/- per unit	7	Purchase a suitable land when government land can not be provided to build a new house	Rs. 5,000,000/- per unit	8	Allowance to repair houses partially damaged	Rs. 2,500,000/- per unit	9	Allowance to the closest relative of a person who died/ complete disable	Rs. 1,000,000/- per person
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