

# OPPOSITION bulletin

S R I L A N K A

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## A No-Confidence Motion Against the Minister of Education



On 6th January, when parliamentary sittings resumed for the new year, a special meeting of opposition party leaders was held at the Opposition Leader's Office in Parliament chaired by the Opposition Leader. Party leaders discussed several timely issues that have emerged and proposed that points should be raised highlighting these problems.

In particular, they pointed out that engagement in this week's parliamentary debates should focus on: post-disaster management failures following Cyclone Ditwah, issues arising from proposed education reforms, the proposal to increase electricity tariff, and problems that have emerged in the health sector.

It was decided to prepare a no-confidence motion against the Minister of Education and begin collecting MPs' signatures from Wednesday the 7th,

Additionally, party leaders emphasized the need to make the public aware of trends regarding moral and social relationship breakdowns that have occurred in the curriculum development process related to proposed education reforms, and the need to take necessary steps regarding the misuse of state funds through module printing of subjects and removal of pages.

### A Special Occasion

MP Kabir Hashim made a special statement regarding the failure to appoint an Auditor General to date, despite the need to obtain the Auditor General's assistance for conducting meetings of the Committee on Public Accounts. Dr. Harsha de Silva made a special statement questioning the refusal to table in the Legislature the letter sent to the President informing him of the situation arising from the non-appointment of the Auditor General and the letter sent to the Speaker regarding this matter, and tabled the relevant letter.

### Parliament's Order Paper

#### January 06

Regulations under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act - for approval

Regulations under the Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefits Scheme Act - for approval

Resolution under the Public Security Ordinance - for approval

Resolution for the appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee to examine and report on the electoral system under which Provincial Council elections should be held, and to submit its recommendations and proposals thereon - for approval

#### January 07

Colombo Port City Economic Commission (Amendment) Bill - Second Reading

Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act - for approval

#### January 08

Two Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act - for approval

#### January 09

Regulation under the Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) Act - for approval

Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act - for approval

The Opposition Leader's Office has launched its Inclusion Project to enhance accessibility and provide facilities for people with disabilities.



In commemoration of International Braille Day on January 04, the Opposition Leader's Office has taken steps to issue its publications in accordance with the required technical formats to enable accessibility for visually impaired citizens.

Opposition of Parliament - Sri Lanka YOUTUBE



Opposition of Parliament - Sri Lanka X (Twitter)



A special media briefing by Members of Parliament of the Opposition was held at Committee Room No. 02 in Parliament. During this, MPs expressed their views regarding the non-appointment of the Auditor General and new education reforms.

For the full Media Brief   
Opposition of Parliament - Sri Lanka



## Questions raised under standing order 27(2)

On Tuesday (06), under Standing Order 27(2), the Opposition Leader submitted a question inquiring about the proposal to increase electricity tariffs by 11.57% for the first quarter of 2026. He inquired about its purpose, the impact of the electricity tariff increase, the failure to fulfill the government's election promise to reduce electricity tariffs, the government's new energy policy, preparations to remove currently operative subsidies, changes to the payment mechanism for generating renewable energy, and whether the government plans to change the tariff structure for wind, small hydro power plants and biomass energy sources.

Through a question submitted by MP Ravi Karunananayake, he inquired about the current status of bilateral trade agreements with the United States. Eight questions were submitted including matters regarding the scope of proposed agreements, representatives of both countries involved in discussions, and whether signed agreements should be presented for parliamentary approval.

On Wednesday (07), Mr. Sivagnanam Sritaran inquired about the extent of paddy lands at Wattakkachchi Agricultural School and the return of lands seized by the army, restarting the farm,

and the measures being taken by the government for this purpose.

Dr. M.L.A.M. Hizbullah, through the question, inquired about the problems arising from the failure to take steps to release lands to the people of Karamunai village in Wakarai.

On Thursday (8th), the Opposition Leader raised the question inquiring about the problematic situation arising from the new curriculum reform. Questions were raised about errors in the Grade 6 English module, studies conducted before introducing curriculum reforms, criteria for including websites in modules, use of private institution websites, teacher training, and school facilities available for implementing reforms.

On Friday (09), raising the question, Dr. Ramanathan Archuna inquired about the legal and hospital treatment issues that have arisen regarding the death of twelve-year-old daughter Kuhanessan Dinoja, who lived in the Silawatte area of Mullaitivu.

MP Ravi Karunananayake raised a question about the steps taken by the government regarding the ban imposed by the United Kingdom government on several Sri Lankan nationals and the problems that have arisen in connection with it, and the failure to inform Parliament about it.

## Questions raised from Prime Minister, Adjournment Questions/Motions

MP Hector Appuhamy made an inquiry regarding the measures being taken by the government to provide necessary assistance for recovery of small and medium scale entrepreneurs affected by Cyclone Ditwah.

Attorney-at-Law M. Nizam Kariapper, MP submitted a question regarding the problem that has arisen concerning the Grade 6 English module, inquiring from the Prime Minister whether that module was prepared by a group of qualified experts in education.

Submitting a question at the adjournment time, MP Chamara Sampath Dassanayake inquired from the Minister of Environment about the steps being taken by the government to solve the problem of wild

elephants, questioning the current wild elephant population in Sri Lanka, the number that died due to human activities, and the impact on the tourism industry due to the failure to take appropriate measures regarding the wild elephant issue.

During the adjournment debate on Friday (09), a question was raised to Health Minister Dr. Kavinda Jayawardena inquiring about the measures being taken by the government to provide quality standard medicines to the country, the establishment of an international pharmaceutical quality testing laboratory, and the government's decisions regarding the provision of medicines without testing.

## Government Rejects Another Select Committee Proposed by Opposition

The proposal submitted to the Speaker on November 21, 2025, signed by 31 opposition MPs to appoint a parliamentary Select Committee to inquire into the procedures for appointments, promotions, and transfers of judges in the judicial service was rejected by the Speaker today.

Making a lengthy clarification on this, the Speaker stated that appointing such a committee would violate the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. He stated that this would weaken the independence of the judiciary and therefore the proposal is unconstitutional, saying he cannot proceed with the proposal.

Opposition's objection to extended Emergency Law expressed in Parliament.

Opposition MPs mentioned, while joining the debate on extending the emergency law imposed under the Public Security Ordinance, that the regulations under the Public Security Ordinance imposed targeting Cyclone Ditwah were based only on the situations that arose during the Easter attacks and Aragalaya period.

The Opposition Leader, who expressed views during the debate, pointed out that there is a problem regarding where in these regulations there is any relevance to those affected by the disaster. The Opposition Leader questioned how pasting leaflets and notices in a manner detrimental to public security, and pasting notices in a location visible to the public, affects the disaster.

MP Shanakiyan Rasamanickam pointed out that when his party inquired about the reason for extending the emergency law, the government evaded the question by only saying that some places affected by the disaster still cannot be accessed.

MP Nizam Kariyapper said that the emergency law is only applicable regarding the procedures necessary for the tri-forces to enter private property for disaster management.

# Debates

January 06

“The Disaster Management Act is sufficient to provide relief

MPs who participated in the debate this day expressed views on current problems facing the country. Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa, participating in the parliamentary debate on extending emergency law, stated that the regulations need to be corrected before extending emergency law. "What we have now is a post-disaster situation. State power cannot be misused to do things that cause suffering to the people. Emergency law is not needed to provide relief to the people

Sajith Premadasa

“ Give the Chairmanship to the Opposition ”

Chief Opposition Whip Gayantha Karunatileka requested the Speaker to give the opposition the chairmanship of the special select committee investigating the lack of preparedness to face Cyclone Ditwah. MP Dayasiri Jayasekara commented that the country has been without an Auditor General since December 6th. Many MPs who commented on this stated that the absence of an Auditor General has created problems in maintaining COPE and COPA committees of Parliament.

Gayantha Karunatileka

“ There are no protests now ”

MP (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna stated that historically, whenever education reforms were introduced, the JVP protested, but now there are no such protests. This is because the country needs education reforms.

Rohini Kumari

MP Namal Rajapaksa pointed out that it is questionable whether the government has an understanding of the people's needs and wants. MP Dilip Wedaarachchi stated that the government should also provide support to the fisheries pension fund. He also pointed out that collecting from fishermen themselves to provide a pension is something anyone can do. MP Chaminda Wijesiri stated that the government tells fairy tales, but implementing them on the ground is the government's responsibility. MP Dilith Jayaweera stated that there is no assurance that emergency law regulations will not be misused.

“ Emergency law is passed to prevent protests ”

MP Ranjith Madduma Bandara questioned why emergency law is needed when the Defense Secretary has stated in writing that the disaster situation has ended. He said this emergency law was introduced to prevent public protest.

Madduma Bandara

“ Regulations even for freedom of expression ”

MP Faizer Mustapha pointed out that looking at the emergency law extension regulations, regulations introduced to suppress the Aragalaya and those brought in relation to the Easter attack are also included here. Regulations have been brought in even for freedom of expression. What is the connection between the disaster and freedom of expression?

Faizer Mustapha

Opposition Leader Expresses Condolences on Demise of Secretary General of Parliament Nihal Seneviratne

Expressing condolences on the demise of this former Secretary General of Parliament, noted that Mr. Seneviratne, who demonstrated sincere dedication to parliamentary democracy, received the love & respect of everyone, both government & opposition.

January 07

During the debate held on the 7th, opposition MPs focused attention on current political issues in the country. The Opposition Leader, joining the debate, emphasized that an international aid conference would be important to move forward from the disaster caused by Cyclone Ditwah. He also pointed out that steps should be taken to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund to change its conditions. The Opposition Leader, indicating that promises made by the government should be fulfilled very quickly, demanded from the government that what was promised be delivered.

Although we have entered into agreements with the International Monetary Fund, we are not bound to do everything according to it. Ravi Karunayake, who joined the debate, noted that if we don't provide investment incentives, no one will come to this country out of love and invest. MP D.V. Chanaka, expressing his views, stated he was very happy that government supporters who said Sigiriya should be demolished and Port City should be taxed are now talking like this. The same mouths that uttered those things are now singing the praises of Port City. I'd like to listen. MP Mujibur Rahman, expressing views, stated that licenses have been granted to 7 renewable energy projects without calling for tenders. The MP also recalled that the government made a decision in Cabinet not to award any project without calling for tenders.

After 40 years, the JVP is now proving how wrong every position they held was. It's also satisfying that the faction that condemned Port City when it was initiated is now saying it's good. There are 2 fundamental reasons why this Port City can serve the national economy. One is investment. The next reason is events. MP Prasad Siriwardena mentioned this by joining the debate.

Now what's happening with education reforms? Books are printed all at once and distributed to children. Isn't there any examination of these? The government should act to protect our culture. We are also telling parents to be vigilant about these things, MP Rohana Bandara mentioned during the debate. MP Rauf Hakeem stated that he appreciates the mission of the team sent from Saudi Arabia for relief work during Cyclone Ditwah and extends his gratitude to the Embassy. The MP further stated that about 25 houses in Puttalam District still remain submerged in water.

MP Adaikkalanathan stated that steps should be taken to hold Provincial Council elections according to the existing electoral system. He also requested from the government to provide a CT Scanner to Mannar Hospital. Dr. Harsha de Silva, expressing views, stated that the economy should be liberalized to provide opportunities for investments. The MP pointed out that improving infrastructure in the economy and providing opportunities to private investors is an essential element for economic growth.

MP Faizer Mustapha, joining the debate, stated that the way Sri Lankans should pay taxes within the Port City needs to be reviewed again. When a Sri Lankan investor makes an investment, they must obtain approvals from numerous institutions over a long period of time. That investor must pay approximately 35% of income as taxes, and due to this reason, they are discouraged from investing in this country.

January 08

Joining the debate on Regulations under the Motor Traffic Act on behalf of the opposition, MP Gayantha Karunatileka stated that our country has inherited a progressively developed road system. Our transport system has developed from expressways to electric motor vehicles. Everyone, from the laborer who toiled, deserves our respect for this. Without that, one should not say that everything done in history was wrong and that those involved were thieves. Those who don't give proper respect to history cannot have a present or a future.

MP J.C. Alawathuwala pointed out that the police should have facilities to strictly enforce motor traffic regulations. The laws passed in Parliament are implemented on the streets by police officers. In the recent incident, ultimately the police were wrong. No matter how many laws are brought, if discipline is not established, results cannot be obtained from them.

MP Chanaka Sampath Madugoda, expressing views, stated that there is no definition regarding the time period for testing for drugs after a person is arrested by the police in some manner. Accordingly, there is a problem with the tests conducted. There are problems regarding the security of the samples obtained. MP Dayasiri Jayasekara pointed out that arrangements have been made not to give the opportunity for transferring ownership of certain vehicle categories to provincial offices of the Motor Traffic Department. He also pointed out that limiting it only to the head office has created an opportunity for fraud.

MP Ajith P. Perera, expressing views, focused attention on irregularities in the tender for supplying coal to Lakvijaya Power Station. He also presented facts about the low quality of those imported from South Africa. MP Hector Appuhamy pointed out that even in these regulations, a personal distinction should be recognized between government and non-government persons. Because with what happened in the past days, that is felt. In the end, it's the police who have to go to jail.

MP Imran Maharoof pointed out that due to the boat transport system built in the Kinniya area at a cost of Rs. 70 million not operating properly, the people of that area and the staff serving there face a multitude of problems. MP Jeewan Thondaman stated that the basic salary of Rs. 1750 pledged by the government to estate workers has still not been received by estate workers. So far, not even a circular about this has been issued. MP Ariyawansa Basuriya presented facts about numerous frauds and corruption occurring in Embilipitiya. MP M.S. Uthumalebbe requested during the debate that the Batticaloa-Pottuvil railway line be extended. It is a great expectation of the people. Support from foreign countries can be obtained for this.

MP Gnanamuthu Srinivasan stated that the powerset type trains currently operating instead of the Romanian trains that operated on the Batticaloa route are trains with fewer facilities. The previously operated trains transported 600 passengers with facilities including postal services and restaurants. Currently, there is space for only about 350 passengers in the train. The MP stated that Romanian trains should be operated as before.

MP Thahir Marikkar mentioned that when vehicles are imported, if they are not sold and registered within three months, a penalty of 3% is imposed. Extend that period to a limit of at least 6 months. Vehicle sales are not happening in the current situation. MP Chamara Sampath, joining the debate, made a statement regarding illicit liquor.

## January 09

Participating in today's debate, MP S.M. Marikkar focused on several pressing issues that have emerged. The MP pointed out that the situation arising from educational reforms has created serious public opinion, stating that there is no one to take responsibility for these errors today. Highlighting that the tender for coal imports to the Lakvijaya Power Station is corrupt and that even the composition of the tender committee is corrupt, the MP stated that a loss of approximately Rs. 10,000 million has occurred through the importation of substandard coal. Emphasizing that this tender should be canceled, the MP stated that the Minister cannot escape by delegating responsibility solely to officials.

Hon. Shanakyan Rajaputhiran MP, participating in the debate, stated that we have serious criticism regarding education reforms. We have a problem concerning the criticism of history. Government members are among those launching attacks on the Prime Minister. Therefore, we are telling the Prime Minister to be careful.

Namal Rajapaksa MP pointed out that there is no one to take responsibility for education-related issues. He rejected statements treating this as an accidental occurrence. Educational reforms should be implemented not as the JVP wants, but as the country needs. He called for the immediate convening of the Select Committee regarding the 323 containers incident.

Mano Ganesan MP mentioned that the 'Rebuilding Sri Lanka' project has been denied to the Malaiyaha people. They are being treated carelessly. About ten thousand people in the estate sector are still displaced. Although relief has been announced, those people have not yet received the necessary assistance.

Chamindranee Kiriella MP stated that making the workplace a safe place for women is an essential matter. Many women in the private sector work from home. She requested that they too be given the same opportunity as women serving in the public sector.

Nalin Bandara MP stated that most of the statements made by the Speaker in Parliament are incorrect. The MP recalled that it was President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government that acted to remove former Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake from office, and that he was appointed to the presidency by the JVP. He also discussed the emergence of an unsettled and unclear situation regarding promotions among judges in the judiciary at present, and the failure to appoint a Select Committee to discuss this matter.

Faizer Musthapha MP, participating in the debate, stated that the rights of women who contribute as much as 51% to the economy should be further protected. He also emphasized that Tamil people's art and culture should be preserved.

Dayasiri Jayasekara MP, commenting on the statement made by the Speaker today, said that we tried to find out what the procedure is for promotions and transfers of judges. Did the Speaker talk to the Secretary General before making such a decision? Today these judges have nowhere to go. The government is giving promotions today while removing seniors. Then judges can think that we can only get promotions if we give decisions favorable to the government. At the very least, the Speaker did not even discuss this decision in the Parliamentary Business Committee before making it.

Dilith Jayaweera MP pointed out that liabilities have increased to USD 114 billion today compared to what they were when the previous government left. The difference between external liabilities in the balance sheet is USD 5.3 billion. We are in big trouble. The IMF also says that. The government says it will spend USD 500 million on disasters. The government does not bring the economic reality into the conversation. What needs to be done is not magic by sending numbers here and there.

MP Ajith P. Perera, who joined the debate, also expressed views regarding the ruling given by the Speaker about the Select Committee. Regarding that, the MP mentioned that today is one of the darkest days in history. He stated that regarding the protection of citizens' rights held by Parliament, the decision given by Speaker Anura Bandaranaike, which was also confirmed by subsequent Speakers, has been distorted by the Speaker's decision today. He stated that the proposal regarding the Select Committee was never considered in the Committee on Parliamentary Business and that there was not even a discussion about it with senior members of Parliament. The MP further pointed out that this ruling was written and typed not by parliamentary officials but by outsiders. The MP, who accused the Leader of the House for misleading the House, mentioned that the Bar Association of Sri Lanka has also submitted a letter similar to the motion submitted by the Opposition.

MP Kavinda Jayawardena pointed out that the government did not respond to the questions continuously raised by the Opposition regarding the education reform process. The MP, who pointed out that as a result of concealing those proposals and operating secretly, a serious problem has arisen in society through the issue that emerged due to the insertion of an internet link in an English module, questioned what disaster would occur if this reached 45,000 schoolchildren.

MP M.A.M. Thahir expressed critical views regarding the failure to appoint a Muslim minister within the government's cabinet.

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