

Vol. 268
No. 04



Thursday,
24 July, 2025,
2 Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT (FLOOR VERSION)
(PART-II)

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RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 24th July, 2025/2 Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

*The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, Oath or Affirmation is a constitutional requirement under Article 99 of the Constitution and solemn occasion. Deviation from the chosen format has potential to invalidate the oath. I urge the hon. Member to conform to the chosen format.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam, Nominated.

Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam (Nominated).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Reports and Accounts (2023-24) of CIHTS, Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; NNN, Nalanda, Bihar; SZCC, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu and related papers;

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE; AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Account.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2798/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara (NNM), Nalanda, Bihar, for the year 2023-24.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2796/18/25]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2797/18/25]

Notifications of the Ministry of Communications

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. CHANDRA SEKHAR PEMMASANI): Sir, I lay on the Table—

(i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. G.S.R. 315(E)., dated the 16th May, 2025, publishing the Telecommunications (Framework to Notify Standards, Conformity Assessment and Certification) Rules, 2025, under sub-section (3) of Section 56 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2771/18/25]

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. G.S.R. 423(E)., dated the 27th June, 2025, publishing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Salary, Allowances and other conditions of Service of the officers and employees) Amendment Rules, 2025, under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2770/18/25]

(iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. S.O. 2962(E)., dated the 2nd July, 2025, publishing the Telecommunications (Removal of Difficulties) Amendment Order, 2025, under sub-section (2) of Section 58 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2772/18/25]

Reports and Accounts (2023-24) of V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, Uttar Pradesh; DTNBWED, New Delhi and related papers

सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (सुश्री शोभा कारान्दलाजे): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिंदी में) सभा पटल पर रखती हूँ :-

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Account.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2845/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development (DTNBWED), New Delhi, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report of Account.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the paper mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2846/18/25]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA (MAHARASHTRA): Sir, I present the Two Hundred Fifty Fifth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation on the Telecommunications (Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure) Rules, 2024 and the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024.

REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25):-

- (i) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts);
- (ii) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Third Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;
- (iii) Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Fourth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; and
- (iv) Fifteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Fifth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

श्री ईरण्ण कडाडी (कर्णाटक): महोदय, मैं पंचायती राज मंत्रालय की 'अनुदान मांगों | (2024-25)' के संबंध में विभाग-संबंधित ग्रामीण विकास और पंचायती राज संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति (2024-25) के तीसरे प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई संबंधी समिति के तेरहवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेज़ी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

**Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in
the Three Hundred and Eighty Eighth, Three Hundred and Eighty Ninth, Three
Hundred and Ninetieth and Three Hundred and Ninety Third Reports on the
Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science
and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY;
THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

Sir, I lay the following statements regarding:—

- (a) Status of implementation of the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the 388th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Department of Biotechnology.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2766/18/25]

- (b) Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 389th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2767/18/25]

- (c) Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 390th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Department of Science and Technology.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2768/18/25]

- (d) Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 393rd Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2769/18/25]

Status of implementation of Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two Hundred and Fifty Third Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI SUKANTA MAJUMDAR): Sir, I lay a statement regarding Status of

implementation of Recommendations /Observations contained in the 253rd Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2914/18/25]

REGARDING NOTICES RECEIVED UNDER RULE 267

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, 30 notices have been received under Rule 267. The notices of Shri Samirul Islam, Ms. Dola Sen, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Shri Ritabrata Banerjee and Shrimati Mausam B. Noor have demanded discussion over ‘alleged discrimination against Bengali migrant workers in other States’. The notices of Shri G. C. Chandrashekhar, Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque, Shrimati Rajani Ashokrao Patil, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan, Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham, Shri Rajeev Shukla, Shri Neeraj Dangi, Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh, Shri A. A. Rahim, Shri Sanjay Singh, Shrimati Mahua Maji, Dr. Syed Nassir Hussain, Shri Prakash Chik Baraik, Shri Ashok Singh, Shri Tiruchi Siva, Shri Saket Gokhale, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Dr. John Brittas, Shri Sandosh Kumar P, Ms. Sushmita Dev, Shri. Manoj Kumar Jha and Dr. V. Sivadasan have demanded discussion over the ‘concern arising out of Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls undertaken by the Election Commission in Bihar’. The notice of Shri Sandeep Kumar Pathak has demanded discussion over ‘concern arising out of increasing cases of cyber fraud in the country’. The notice of Shri Abdul Wahab has demanded discussion over ‘the unprecedented and unexpected resignation of the hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha’. The notice of Shri Haris Beeran has demanded discussion over the incidents of human-animal conflict in Kerala.

Hon. Members may recall the detailed rulings on Rule 267 imparted by the Chair on 8th December, 2022, and 19th December, 2022. The same have been reiterated a number of times. Since these notices do not conform to the directives imparted by the Chair, the same are declined. ...(*Interruptions*)... We would now have the farewell address to the retiring Members. I would request Members, please have patience.

FAREWELL TO THE RETIRING MEMBERS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, six of our colleagues, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla, Shri N. Chandrasegharan, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Shri M. Shanmugam, Shri Vaiko and Shri P. Wilson, representing the State of Tamil Nadu are retiring today, the 24th of July, 2025, on completion of their term of office. Shri P. Wilson has been declared re-elected and his second term will commence tomorrow. Each one of these Members has contributed meaningfully to the deliberations of this House, bringing with them diverse experiences, perspectives and a deep sense of commitment to the public service and democratic values.

Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla was elected in a bye-election with effect from 6th September, 2021. During his tenure, the hon. Member has made focused interventions on issues relating to youth welfare and education, reflecting his engagement with the concerns of the younger generation and the socio-economic development of his State.

Shri N. Chandrasegharan enriched the House with his keen insights into rural and agrarian issues. His calm and sincere participation in debates added substance to our discussions, particularly on matters impacting the farming community.

Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, a former Union Minister and a public health advocate, will be completing his second term in this august House today. His earlier term was from 2004 to 2010. The hon. Member brought to the House his expertise in healthcare and environmental issues. His articulate interventions often emphasized the need for long-term planning in the domains of health infrastructure and sustainable development.

Shri M. Shanmugam, a veteran trade union leader, strongly voiced the rights and welfare of workers. His interventions consistently highlighted the challenges faced by the labour sector, making the House more aware of grassroots realities.

Shri Vaiko, a seasoned parliamentarian renowned for his fiery oratory and passionate advocacy, made significant contributions to parliamentary debates on federalism, linguistic rights and social justice. His unwavering commitment to democratic values and regional aspirations earned him respect across party lines. He served three consecutive terms in the Rajya Sabha from 1978 to 1996, and was elected for his fourth term from 2019 to 2025. I am confident that a leader, who has devoted his entire life to the service of his people, will not remain idle, but will continue to work tirelessly for their upliftment.

Shri P. Wilson, a distinguished lawyer and articulate speaker, brought legal acumen and constitutional clarity to our discussions. His contributions in matters related to judicial reforms, governance and civil liberties have been insightful and

thought-provoking. And, I am glad, we will continue to benefit from his contributions as he has also been re-elected to this august House.

As these Members demit office, we acknowledge, with deep appreciation, their valuable contributions to parliamentary discourse. Their presence and participation have enriched the democratic functioning of this House. On behalf of the entire House, and on my own behalf, I place on record our heartfelt gratitude to the retiring Members for their service to the nation and this august institution. We wish them good health, happiness and continued success in their future endeavours. We hope they will continue to serve the people in various capacities and inspire future generations to uphold the ideals of our democratic polity. I now invite the retiring Members to speak briefly. Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla.

SHRI M. MOHAMMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir. Kindly permit me to speak in my mother tongue, Tamil. &" Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir and hon. colleagues, I stand before you all today with a profound sense of gratitude. When I speak of gratitude, it is foremost towards the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who honored me with the opportunity to represent my State, that is, Tamil Nadu in this august House.

Though my tenure here has been brief, the experiences and opportunities I have gained have been invaluable. I have been deeply touched by the warmth and affection extended to me by many hon. Members across party lines, both from the Treasury and the Opposition. This kindness will remain etched in my memory.

Hailing from a remote village in Tamil Nadu, I have seen the dignitaries from far away distance. This House has given me the unique privilege to interact with them closely and has broadened my perspective, enabling me to approach political and governmental issues from a national viewpoint.

Today, in my farewell address, I wish to put forth a singular request on behalf of the people of my State. There is a village called Kanagampatti in the Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu, situated along the railway line between Dindigul and Palani. This village is renowned for the temple dedicated to Saint Palanisamy, who lived there some time ago. Every year, lakhs of devotees visit this temple to seek his blessings.

Establishing a railway station in Kanagampatti would greatly facilitate the travel of these devotees and would also be financially viable. This request has been brought to me by several devotees, and I urge this House to consider it favorably for the benefit of both the people and the railways.

& English translation of original speech delivered in Tamil.

As I retire from this august House, I assure you that my voice will continue to resonate in support of social justice and the ideals of the Dravidian Movement—principles that I hold dear and will always uphold. Once again, I express my sincere thanks for this opportunity to serve. Thank you."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri N. Chandrasegharan.

SHRI N. CHANDRASEGHARAN (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, and respected Members of Parliament, today, as I stand before you in this magnificent new Parliament building, I feel a sense of profound gratitude and reflection. It seems like only yesterday, yet a lifetime ago, when I took oath in the old Parliament building in July, 2019. Today, on 24th July, 2025, when my tenure as Member of Parliament ends, I am deeply honored to address this august assembly one last time. My journey of the past six years has been extraordinary. Representing the people of Tamil Nadu, I have strived to be their voice, advocate and servant.

I have witnessed the power of democracy, the passion of public service and the unwavering spirit of our nation. The old Parliament building, with its rich history and timeless architecture, witnessed countless debates, decisions and moments that shaped our country. Transitioning to this new building symbolizes our nation's forward momentum, a testament to our progress and aspirations. This new edifice, with its modern infrastructure and technological advancements, embodies the India we are building for future generations. I am grateful to my party, AIADMK, and its General Secretary, hon. Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami, for giving me the opportunity to serve. I have worked alongside dedicated and brilliant minds and learned from their wisdom and experience. I recall significant moments, including the passing of many Bills and working on constituency issues. These experiences have shaped me and made me a better representative.

I thank the Chairman, parliamentary staff and everyone who supported me throughout my tenure. To my constituents, I express my deepest gratitude for their trust and support. I hope I have served up to their expectations. As I step down, I carry with me a wealth of memories and experiences. I am confident that this new Parliament building will be the stage for many more historic moments, and our nation will continue to prosper. I wish all my colleagues the very best in their future endeavours.

& " Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I want to quote a Tamil poem.

& English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

With the moon and with the bright sun,
With the sky and the stars,
With the clouds and the sea, and
With the Tamil language that was born,
We were born.
Such is the antiquity of our language that
None can predict its real age.
We thump our chest and shoulders
To proudly say we are Tamils

Sir, it is a pride to be called a Tamilian and I am honoured to be a Tamilian. If I have a rebirth, I wish to be born in Tamil Nadu again and again. I pay tribute to the founder of my Party, *Puratchithalaivar* MGR and Leader *Puratchithalaivi* Amma. I thank you for giving me this opportunity".

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss; not present. Shri M. Shanmugam.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on the occasion of farewell to the retiring Members of Parliament. Sir, since my childhood, I have been fascinated by the Self Respect Movement. I started my life with the admiration of Thanthai Periyar and I used to meet him during my school days. After completing my high school, I joined the Indian Army and served during the Chinese aggression and Pakistan war. I started my political career, social service and trade union activities after a short service in Army. For the last 45 years, I have been serving in a regional trade union called Labour Progressive Federation, labour wing of the DMK Party. With all efforts of our colleagues and past Presidents and General Secretary, it was enlarged into central trade union. Now, we have many trade union offices in 19 States.

As a Member of the Standing Committee on Labour, I wanted to make more contribution and to make the Committee more purposeful and powerful watchdog. However, due to time constraint and limited interaction and discussions, the Committee could not deliver much, though the Members wished.

I thank our leader, Thiru M.K. Stalin, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Udhayanidhi Stalin, who gave me an opportunity to represent Tamil Nadu in this august House. Under the guidance of our

friend and floor leader, my well-wisher, Thiru Tiruchi Siva, and other colleagues, I could function effectively and espoused the cause of labourers and workers on many occasions and drew the attention of the House to the need to enhance their job security, social security and to increase the minimum pension under EPF-95 scheme. Though India is a Member of the ILO, it has not yet ratified the Convention for right to form association and collective bargaining as a basic right of workers. I am proud to say that I had the privilege of making speeches, raising important issues in this hon. House where our great Dravidian leader, Perarignar Annadurai made roaring speeches on the State autonomy, federal principles, social justice, etc.

I would like to thank my colleagues for extending their cooperation to me in discharging the onerous responsibility of raising people's burning issues, protecting the rights of the oppressed and the suppressed and raising issues of social justice and workers' demands. I would also like to thank hon. Deputy Chairman, Shri Harivansh, and all the Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen. I also thank the Secretary-General and his whole team for extending help and cooperation. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and I also thank all the leaders of political parties here for enabling me to express my farewell to this august House and all the colleagues of mine here. I thank, from the core of my heart, the former Chairman, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, who had always shown affection and regards to me. I wish him a long and healthy life. I extend my gratitude to the memory of Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi for having sent me to this august House in 1978, 1984 and 1990. I express my gratitude to the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. M.K. Stalin, who is running the Dravidian Model Government, for sending me to this Upper House in 2019. I was moulded by the then leader of DMK Parliamentary Party, Shri Murasoli Maran.

Sir, with all humbleness, I would submit that I was instrumental in unveiling the portrait of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar in the Central Hall of Parliament by the then hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh. I initiated the Calling Attention Motion 13 times on the tragedy of Tamils and the genocide committed by the demonic Sinhalese Government. I was the only Member of Parliament, in the whole of India, who suffered detention under POTA for 19 months. I also suffered detention under MISA for 12 months. On the whole, I have suffered detention for five and a half years in prison. Under POTA, I wrote my emotions and the happenings in the form of a

book titled *From the portals of a Prison* which was released by the then hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on 3rd September, 2004 in Chennai.

Sir, parting is always sorrowful, painful and also memorable. In this great Chamber, I got the privilege of listening to the memorable speeches made by the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Shri Derek O'Brien, Shri Jairam Ramesh, Shri P. Chidambaram, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Digvijaya Singh, Shri Tiruchi Siva, Shri P. Wilson, Shri N.R. Elango, Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan, Dr. John Brittas, Shri Manoj Kumar Jha, Shri Sanjay Singh, Dr. M. Thambidurai, Shri Sanjay Raut, Shri H.D. Devegowda, Shri Sharad Pawar, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Shri Sandosh Kumar P, Shri Jose K. Mani, Dr. Fauzia Khan and Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi.

Sir, I can never forget the love and affection showered on me by Dr. John Brittas and Shri Manoj Kumar Jha. These two and I were called Three Musketeers of the House. I will miss all the colleagues of mine in this House.

When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, the Union Government was determined to undertake disinvestment of stocks of Neyveli Lignite Corporation, which is one of the gems of India and a profitable public sector undertaking. I met hon. Prime Minister Vajpayee at his residence and pleaded with him, giving representation of 25 trade unions. I told him, "NLC is in my Tamil Nadu State. Twenty-five thousand workers have shed their sweat on the land of Tamil Nadu. This should not be privatised." He told me that the Cabinet had already decided and that in two or three days it was going to be privatised. I said, "You have told people in Madhya Pradesh that Vaiko is like my adopted son. Is it the way to treat me and my State?" I pleaded with him, with all humbleness, and asked him to kindly withdraw the decision. As usual, he closed his eyes for two minutes and thought for a while and said, "I agree with you that NLC will not be privatised."

I informed the newspaper 'The Hindu' from PM's residence. That was published on the front page of 'The Hindu' next morning.

In 1967, when Perarignar Anna was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he declared, on the floor of Assembly, that we would not accept Three-Language Formula, and only Tamil and English will be our two-language policy. Today, I am happy to say that the Government of Karnataka, the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of West Bengal have followed Tamil Nadu's language policy. I can never forget my sister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee. One day, she was about to speak in the afternoon; she rushed towards me, snatched my black shawl and said that she had to fight many

MPs that day and this shawl will give her courage and boldness. Two days back, Sister Mamata Banerjee said that imposition of Hindi is linguistic terrorism.

Sir, I would like to thank the Secretary-General and his whole team for the cooperation extended to me. I will tell the young Members of this House, quoting the poem of Longfellow: “The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight; but they, while their companions slept, were toiling in the night.” So, you have to burn your midnight oil and do your home work perfectly well. I would be very pertinent to quote the great Tamil leader Perarignar Anna, who made his maiden speech in April, 1963. In his maiden speech, he said, “I belong to the Dravidian stock and that is only because I consider that the Dravidians have got something concrete, something distinct and something different to offer to the nation at large. Therefore, it is that we want self-determination.” He further says, “I think, in the coming years, there will be a new sense of appreciation, and the needs and philosophy of the South will be better understood and self-determination accorded to Dravida Nadu from where I have the honour to come.” In our human life, we can face defeat, disappointment and betrayals but we need not worry about that. I do submit the memorable quotation of Maharana Pratap after the defeat of Haldighati war in 1576. I quote, “Till such time, breads of dry grass are available; till such time, water in streams is available; till such time, I breathe the air of atmosphere, I will raise my sword for my homeland.” Now, I do say that I will never yield or I will never compromise with my convictions. Once again, I thank you one and all. *Vanakkam!*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri P. Wilson.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you. Since I am going to come back to this House once again, I will be brief in my speech today. Sir, first of all, I thank my leader *Thalapathy Avargal*, who sent me to this very important part and a very important organ of democracy, namely, the Upper House. I thank Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin for supporting me and sending me here again.

Sir, I come from the land of Periyar; I come from the land of Perarignar Anna and Kalaighar. Now, it has been guarded by our leader, Mr. M. K. Stalin. When I entered this House, we wanted to protect the dignity and importance of this House. In fact, we had been fighting for the downtrodden and the marginalized people with a fond hope that the marginalized people will be given their due and rightful share. It is our vision. That is why, I myself have brought forward nearly seventeen Private Member Bills, especially relating to the Other Backward Classes, the Scheduled

Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I hope one day they will get justice from our House because they are still being neglected and not being taken into consideration at all.

Sir, there is no doubt that the Constitution provides for three independent organs, namely, Judiciary, Legislature and Executive. There is no doubt that one should not encroach into the area of other. But I would say that we should redeem the encroached area. When I spoke in this House in 2019, when Shri Venkaiah Naidu was the Chairman of the House, my first speech was that we should redeem the space which has been encroached upon by the other organs. That is how we have to assert to the people that this House will rise for the common man, this House is there for the downtrodden and for the marginalized society and that is what I expect. I thank every one of them, especially, I thank all my good friends even from the Treasury benches and from the Opposition who used to encourage me. Whenever I spoke something or when I brought any Bill into this House, they supported me, appreciated me and stood with me. I am thankful and grateful once again to my leader, Mr. M.K. Stalin, for sending me back here again. We would, certainly, work for the downtrodden and for the marginalized. There is only one thing I wanted to say that our State has been neglected. Our State has been discriminated against. We are not receiving enough funds from the Union Government. On the last day, the last time and the last minute, I have an opportunity to appeal to all my good friends -- Madam is also there -- to kindly provide the necessary funds to our State. Our students are struggling. We are not getting Samagra Shiksha funds. We are driven to the courts every time even to assert our right.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You would get opportunity to speak on all these issues. Please conclude.

SHRI P. WILSON: Even Kerala also, as my learned good friend....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not deviate from the issue.

SHRI P. WILSON: Therefore, I would only request, treat our State on par with other States even though it is ruled by a different Government. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री उपसभापति: माननीय लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन सदन में नहीं हैं, अभी माननीय लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस बोलेंगे।

सभा के नेता (श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा): उपसभापति जी, आज हमारे छह साथी हम सभी से विदा ले रहे हैं, जिनमें से पी. विल्सन जी फिर से वापस आ रहे हैं, उनका स्वागत है। आज हमारे जिन साथियों के विदाई भाषण हुए हैं, मैं उन्हें अपनी ओर से, अपनी पार्टी की ओर से बहुत-बहुत शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ। हम जानते हैं कि यह हाउस कंटीन्यूटी में चलता है, इसलिए समय-समय पर नए सदस्य आते हैं और समयावधि पूरी होने पर जब उनका काल पूरा होता है, तो वे जाते भी हैं। प्रजातंत्र में चर्चा होना, वाद-विवाद होना स्वाभाविक बात है और हम यह भी जानते हैं कि डेमोक्रेसी की ब्यूटी यह है कि we agree to disagree. हम disagree करते हैं, इसको हम agree करते हैं, इसलिए नीतियों में, पॉलिसीज़ के साथ हुई चर्चाओं में हमारे छह साथियों ने जिस तरीके से पार्टिसिपेट किया है, उससे हाउस बहुत enrich हुआ है। यह हाउस उनका यह कंट्रीब्यूशन सदा याद रखेगा। उन्होंने निश्चित रूप से समसामयिक विषयों पर चर्चा की है, लेबर इश्यूज़ पर चर्चा की है और लीगल इश्यूज़ पर भी बहुत चर्चा की है। उन्होंने जो सामाजिक विषय उठाए हैं, उससे हाउस बहुत enrich हुआ है और उनके कंट्रीब्यूशन से डिबेट को एक स्तर मिला है। मैं उन्हें इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत बधाई और शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ।

महोदय, कालावधि पूरी होने से काम करने की कोई अवधि पूरी नहीं हो जाती है। हम सभी को अनेक प्लेटफॉर्म पर काम करने का मौका मिलता है। आज हम हमारे बीच वाइको जी को विदाई दे रहे हैं। उनके जीवन और उनके कंट्रीब्यूशन को -- within the House and outside the House -- देश हमेशा याद रखेगा। वे इस सदन के चार बार सदस्य रहे हैं, दो बार लोक सभा के सदस्य रहे हैं। उन्होंने कई पुस्तकें भी लिखीं हैं। आज हम सबको यह भी पता चला कि उनका पाँच साल से ज्यादा का जीवन जेल में गुजरा। वे समाज के लिए, अपने सिटिज़न्स के लिए लड़ाई लड़ते रहे। वे कल भी सदन में बहुत ज़ोर-ज़ोर से फिशरमैन का विषय उठा रहे थे और अभी भी उन्होंने जिस अंदाज़ में अपनी फेयरवेल स्पीच दी है, उससे मुझे कहीं नहीं लगा कि उनके मन में फेयरवेल का कोई अंदाज़ आया है। Nobody can dampen his spirit. He has kept his spirit. मैं उन्हें और हमारे सभी पाँचों साथियों को शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ। ईश्वर से कामना करता हूँ कि उनकी दीर्घायु हो और वे समाज की अच्छे तरीके से सेवा करते रहें। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, बहुत-बहुत शुभकामनाएं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I am giving the floor to the leaders of DMK and AIADMK parties whose Members are retiring to speak briefly. *Mananiya Tiruchi Siva.*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Normally, the retirement, when it happens, hon. Members are from all the States. But, today, hon. Members are only from Tamil Nadu. So, you are giving the floor to us, but I wish that the other party leaders could also be given the floor as the contributions of those Members are very remarkable. It is just my request.

Sir, being a Member of this House is really a prestige. It is an honour. Not everyone gets that. So many people, who have worked very hard in this nation for the people, would not get an opportunity to enter into this noble temple of

democracy. But, having been a Member and retiring, as my brother, Vaikoji told, it is painful. But, I consider this is not parting. The echo of their voice in this hall just ceases. But, their voices will be echoed in every part of this nation for the welfare of the people. This is not the end of the road. This is only a bend. This is not a farewell. It is an honour to their contribution, by way of deliberation, to this august House. Everyone!

Vaikoji is my senior brother and our forerunner in the students' organization. When I was student in college, he was my Joint Secretary at the State level. And, all of us spoke in a meeting and went to MISA detention the next day. From then on, we have been together and everyone here knows very well about his articulation. He has been in the Parliament for more than three decades. And, of course, all his speeches are remarkable, inside and outside.

Sir, I wish to mention very much here, particularly, about Mr. Shanmugam, a great trade union leader, who has done a lot to the trade union community, not only in Tamil Nadu, but also the whole of India. Through his deliberations, he eased my burden in this House. Whenever any labour issue came, I was least worried because my party will be represented by Mr. Shanmugam. I will miss him terribly. His presence was so much of help to me.

My brother Abdullaji, who has also been here for a little time, has also contributed. Wilsonji is coming back. Shri N. Chandrasegharan may belong to another party, but he is also our dear colleague. He quoted Bharathidasan, and he spoke with great pride that he belongs to Tamil Nadu, the Tamil language, its glory and the ancientness. I appreciate him.

Again, I say, Sir, it is not farewell. We cannot part. Love is something different and that too the bondage we have developed here in this House by way of our performance outside the hall, in the Central Hall there and in the canteen here, are all unforgettable. These Members leave this House not only with memories to cherish, but also the respect we all showed to them. It is an honour to them. We bid farewell and we wish a great future to them and good health. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. M. Thambidurai. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, on behalf of AIADMK party, my leader, Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami, I join the entire House in felicitating six hon. Members from Tamil Nadu who are retiring from the service of this House. It may be temporary. As Sivaji told, there is no farewell. They will have the opportunity once again to come to this House. It is democracy. They will have their opportunity

once again. I hope that they are not retiring. Democracy will give a chance for them to once again come to either Lok Sabha or this Rajya Sabha. Therefore, it is not a farewell party.

Sir, I want to say about my colleague, Shri Chandrasegharan. He is a true follower of MGR, *Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, and also had the blessings of former Chief Minister, Edappadi Palaniswami, to come over to this House. For six years, he tried and raised many issues. He comes from a humble family. From a humble family, he has come out to this Upper House and expressed so many issues about Tamil Nadu, Tamil language. And finally, he spoke about the glories of the Tamil culture and Tamil language. That shows his efforts to the social society, especially, to uplift the Tamil Nadu people and the whole India. Particularly, his Tamil speech finally touched every one of us. Regarding other Members, even though Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss is not present here today, he may come back also. There is a chance. This is the way because this is democracy. He served as a Health Minister and contributed a lot for that department, especially, with regard to ambulances and other things, which were introduced throughout India. He is the root cause for that. For tobacco ban, he took a lot of efforts as a Health Minister. Our present Health Minister is also present here. At that time, when Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss was the Health Minister, he took a lot of efforts; I appreciate him. We remember his contribution for the society. I do not want to say more about my leader, Mr. Vaiko. He is my leader. He is my brother. He is my elder brother. We always get inspiration in our movements, from DMK onwards and now AIADMK on so many issues. He also started his own party. He also joined our party as allied party when Ms. Jayalalithaa was the Chief Minister. He joined the alliance at that time, the alliance with BJP. At that time, he joined us. With AIADMK and BJP alliance, he was elected first time as the Lok Sabha Member. Then afterwards, second time also, even though not with us, with DMK and BJP alliance, he once again became a Lok Sabha Member. He served more in the Rajya Sabha. He is a stalwart. He is a leader of the army. He has contributed with a lot of efforts in his whole life. As our floor leader said, he was imprisoned for nearly five years. All his speeches were fiery speeches. Whenever he used to speak in Tamil in Tamil Nadu, everybody used to assemble there. As Anna attracted all through his speeches, in the same way, as a brother of Anna, Vaiko attracted most of the Tamil people through his speeches that we cannot even imagine. We are still having a leader. He just raised so many issues about Tamil Nadu, the fishermen issues, etc. As our floor leader said, he is always a fighter for the cause. He never ambitioned to become any Minister. That is his view. He would have got many times. My party leader, *Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, at that time in 1988

requested him to become a Minister in the Cabinet in the Vajpayee Government, but he refused. He was offered next time also, but he gave to others. He never aspired for the post of a minister. Politicians, everyone who come in politics, they want to become minister. That is their ambition, but he gave it to his followers. He never aspired for that. That shows his sacrifice for the party and how he served. He worked only for the cause and not for the post. He had this kind of view. Therefore, we will miss him. I hope that he will come back once again. A chance is there, there is an opportunity. As Mr. Siva said, in politics, there is no farewell. This is not a farewell. This is only felicitation for what they have contributed. That way, I hope for that.

Mr. Shanmugam is a trade union leader. He is an elderly man. He is always guiding us. I also started my movement from DMK onwards from a student-wing. Afterwards, when MGR started, I joined that movement. That is a different matter. From that day onwards, I have remained continuously in the same party. I have never changed my party. That is why I say this about Shri Shanmugam as well—throughout his career, he remained loyal to his party. He never switched. He always obeyed his leadership. Even though he contributed to the trade union movement for a long time, this time only, he got the opportunity to come to this House, that is, the Parliament. Therefore, he has always been a champion for labour, and that was clearly reflected in his speech. In many of the debates he participated in, he spoke primarily on labour issues. That is his route. But, whenever he speaks, he speaks not only about labour, but all kinds of labour. For that, he is always there.

Now, I speak about Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla. He is a very nice man. Even though he joined us midterm, we always hoped that he would come back. I still think, and sincerely hope, that he will come back once again. There is a good chance, and I believe, he will return to this House. He served as a Member alongside me. I am the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances and he contributed a lot in that Committee. His friendship and dedication were evident. As he himself mentioned, he learned a lot of things. But I too learned many things from him in that Committee, as the Chairman. I fondly remember those things, Sir.

Then, I speak about Mr. Wilson, who is going to continue in this House. I do mention that he is a good lawyer. He has contributed a lot. Whenever there are legal matters discussed here, his voice is always heard. He never misses anything, especially Zero Hour or Special Mention. That is his way of participation. Even though he is a well-known Supreme Court lawyer, he is deeply committed to his role -- what to do in the Parliament. He is always sincere in fulfilling his duties. He is also in the panel of Vice-Chairpersons. You have given him the opportunity to serve in that capacity. At that time, we faced certain things. When I started, he was

presiding the House. I was raising an issue. The matter discussed then was a recent issue which might have embarrassed him. But, let me say this clearly, there is no embarrassment when one is presiding the House because the Chair is above party politics. And, he conducted himself in that spirit. He allowed me to speak, regardless of his party liking it or not. I represent my party and I have every right to express my views. He gave me that opportunity, and I also thank him for that. We will continue once again. Sir, the Leader of the House felicitated them, Shri Tiruchi Siva also felicitated them and I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to felicitate all my friends and brothers who have come from Tamil Nadu. I believe, they will come back once again. That is our hope and our belief. I am confident that they will come back and continue their contributions, just as they have done so far. Their contributions will never be forgotten. It is now part of the proceedings. During the proceedings, he quoted Anna's speeches from 1960. Those speeches were quoted. Those speeches are still great and they inspired us. It is a part of the Rajya Sabha proceedings. Sir, Vajpayeeji and even Nehruji appreciated Anna's speeches. Vaikoji has also quoted him today. That is always remembered. Those sentiments remain with us. Once again, I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to felicitate our colleagues and brothers. We sincerely hope they will return to this House and contribute to this House. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Derek O' Brien.

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN (West Bengal): *Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, I will not deliver a long speech now. Six of the hon. Members from this august House are retiring this month and one of them is being re-elected to this House. On behalf of AITC Party, I extend my best wishes and good health to all of them. Thank You, Sir.

श्री उपसभापति : धन्यवाद। श्री संजय सिंह जी।

श्री संजय सिंह (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली): उपसभापति महोदय, साथियों को विदा करना हमेशा बड़ा सुखद अनुभव नहीं होता, तकलीफ होती है अगर अपने साथी इस हाउस से विदा होकर जाते हैं। इसलिए मैं अपने उन पाँच साथियों - वाइको साहब, अब्दुल्ला जी, चन्द्रशेखरन जी, अंबुमणि जी और शनमुगम जी - जो आज रिटायर हो रहे हैं, उनके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की शुभकामना करता हूँ। विल्सन साहब दोबारा इस सदन में आ गए हैं, तो इनको बहुत-बहुत बधाई। मान्यवर, हमारा इनसे भाषा का रिश्ता नहीं है। इनकी भाषा अलग है, लेकिन इनसे हमारा दिल

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Bengali.

का रिश्ता है, जज्बात का रिश्ता है, दर्द का रिश्ता है, विपक्ष में होने के नाते नारों का रिश्ता है और वह रिश्ता कायम रहेगा।

महोदय, हम लोग वाइको साहब से बड़ी प्रेरणा लेते हैं। इस उम्र में भी वे जिस जज्बात के साथ और जिस हौसले के साथ बोलते हैं, यह हम सब लोगों के लिए बड़ा प्रेरणादायी है कि जब आप विपक्ष में हों, आपको अपनी बात कहनी हो, तो आप अपनी आवाज कैसे सत्ता पक्ष तक पहुँचा सकते हैं। यह सदन सत्ता पक्ष और विपक्ष से मिल कर बना है।

महोदय, आज एक बात सुन कर बड़ी खुशी हुई, क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान का यही दर्शन है, यही हिन्दुस्तान है और इस सदन को अब्दुल्ला जी की भावना का सम्मान करना चाहिए कि आज अपनी अन्तिम स्पीच में वे यह कह रहे थे कि हमारे इलाके में एक मन्दिर है, वहाँ पर रेलवे स्टेशन होना चाहिए। मैं समझता हूँ कि हम सब लोग और यह सदन उनकी इस भावना का सम्मान करेगा। यह हिन्दुस्तान है और यही हिन्दुस्तान का सेक्युलरिज्म है और यही हमारा भाईचारा है।

मान्यवर, तमिलनाडु से आने वाले इन सब भाइयों को, जो आज विदा हो रहे हैं, उनको मैं दिल की गहराइयों से उनके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की शुभकामनाएँ देता हूँ। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय प्रमोद तिवारी जी।

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): माननीय उपसभापति जी, हमारे जो पाँच साथी आज विदा ले रहे हैं, उनका कार्यकाल समाप्त हुआ है, मैं उनके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना करता हूँ। वे यहाँ से विदा हो रहे हैं, परन्तु वे सार्वजनिक जीवन में दूसरे प्लेटफॉर्म पर क्रियाशील रहें, कर्तव्यशील रहें और हमेशा देश के लिए, देश की आवाज को उठाते रहें। मैं कांग्रेस पार्टी की ओर से इन सभी साथियों को शुभकामनाएँ देता हूँ, बधाई देता हूँ और इस बात के लिए सराहना करता हूँ कि उन्होंने अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान जनता की आवाज, दर्द, दुःख और सारी पीड़ा व्यक्त की है तथा मजबूती से उठाया है। मैं उनके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

श्री उपसभापति : बहुत धन्यवाद, माननीय प्रमोद जी। Now, Shri Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to speak in Telugu. & “Sir, it is a commendable tradition that through this House, we honor the retiring Members for their dedicated service to the people of our country. Whenever the Members of this august House retire, we should always remember them with kind words and acknowledge their valuable contributions. Their work in this august House and for the nation serves as an inspiration for future generations.

& English translation of the original speech delivered in Telugu.

I have not seen this tradition in the State Assembly . I had been a member of Legislative Assembly for three terms, but this tradition was not in practice there.

Sir, I would like to express my special thanks to those who have introduced this tradition in the Parliament. I would also like to express my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity.”

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party and my leader, Shri Naveen Patnaik, I take this occasion to wish all the six Members, our colleagues, who are today retiring—one of them is coming back—the very best. It has been truly amazing experience learning from each one of them as they went forward in their contributions to this House, especially Dr. Vaiko. I personally have been touched by his charisma and his leadership, and many a time I feel that, probably, the energy that he possesses, I need to step up to him in order to come up to his level of energy and motivation.

In terms of Shanmugamji, his leadership in the trade union has been truly inspiring. So also have been many colleagues who are here. I just want to be reminded, at this time, of the words of Robert Frost: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep." They have miles to go, miles to contribute, miles to achieve, and for all of us to be more proud of them going forward. Thank you, Sir.

12.00 Noon

श्री उपसभापति: मैं अगले वक्ता को बुलाऊँ, इससे पहले यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि 12.00 बज चुके हैं, यह Question Hour का समय है, इसलिए अगर आपकी अनुमति हो, तो हम लोग सदन में farewell speeches को continue रखें।

ALL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

श्री उपसभापति: माननीय श्री प्रेम चंद गुप्ता।

श्री प्रेम चंद गुप्ता (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं अपनी पार्टी के behalf पर, पार्टी लीडरशिप के behalf पर आज विदा हो रहे साथियों को बहुत शुभकामनाएँ देता हूँ और इनके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की प्रार्थना करता हूँ।

श्रीमान्, इनके साथ इतने सालों से सहयोग के साथ चलने से हमें बहुत अच्छा लगा। हमें इन लोगों से बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिला। इंसान की कभी रिटायरमेंट नहीं होती है। जो कर्मयोगी होते हैं, उनके काम का कभी अंत नहीं होता है, बल्कि वे आगे चल कर और काम करते हैं। ये लोग

पब्लिक सेवा में अपना समय लगाऊँगे। मैं इनके अच्छे स्वास्थ्य की मनोकामना करता हूँ और भगवान से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि ये भविष्य में अपने काम में जुटे रहें। यह भी कामना करता हूँ कि इनका स्वास्थ्य ठीक रहे और ये खुश रहें, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy.

SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY (Telangana): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for having given me the opportunity to speak. As we bid farewell to the retiring Members, on behalf of my BRS Party, I wish them well. They have been a great source of inspiration, especially, for us. BRS being a regional party coming from South, our struggle for upholding the federal spirit was very much inspired through our senior Members who kept advising us. While I look at Vaiko, he is such a contradictory to the numbers which matter in parliamentary democracy but he proved it otherwise. He stood alone like a rock but never deviated from the cause. So, I wish them well on behalf of my party. I, once again, congratulate Wilsonji, who has made a comeback, and I am sure his contributions will keep guiding us in this august House. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Dr. John Brittas.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Thank you, Sir, for having given me the opportunity. Sir, Vaikoji described me as one of the three musketeers and said that I need to speak my heart out. Please bear with me for two minutes extra. Sir, Vaikoji is a phenomenon and I hugely benefitted sitting beside him. I was inspired by his presence and I moved out couple of days ago to this seat precisely to express my solidarity with Vaikoji. Since he is retiring, I do not want to be there at all. Sir, we are short of adjectives when we speak about Vaikoji. We can speak about him being resilient, tenacious and having an indomitable spirit. The one person who has fire in the belly in this House is Vaikoji. He stepped in this House half a century back, almost 47 years back. And, me having an opportunity to sit beside him, I cannot forget about, Sir. The meaning of being firebrand was explained by Madam Nirmala Sitharaman yesterday. Yesterday, when the House was adjourned, we were having an informal chat. The sum and substance of what she spoke was this. When Vaikoji spoke in Tamil Nadu at that time, people could not take out a piece of paper as it would have caught fire. That was how he spoke in Tamil Nadu. Sir, with my journalistic insight and memory, I clearly remember his voyage through the dangerous seas dodging Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy, to go to Jaffna to meet Prabhakaran,

the LTTE Supremo. It was controversial; it was headline. But that journey is part of the Tamil political law. And, one more, if you ask me who the real tiger was, I would say, it was not Prabhakaran, it was Vaiko. He was the real tiger.

Sir, last month, hon. Chairman convened the leaders' meeting, floor leaders' meeting, and he was quoting a ruling by late Vice-President, Shri Venkataraman, wherein late Venkataramanji, had ruled against people displaying badges and some other display items. He said, "The ruling came as part of a submission made by one Member, Shri V. Gopalsamy." Then I told hon. Chairman, "Sir, 'this Vaiko' is the V. Gopalsamy." And Vaikoji came out and asked me, "Am I the Gopalsamy?" He has even forgotten the past wherein he was instrumental for many Tamil test events in Indian history. Sir, the way he fought for the Tamil-Dravidian cause -- even yesterday, he spoke about the Tamil fisherman -- I feel that at 81, he is still the youngest in this House, and the Tamil Nadu politics is ripe for an angry-firebrand person like Vaikoji. तंबीदुरै जी, ये आग लगा देंगे। Beware of Vaikoji when he comes back to Tamil Nadu.

Sir, Shanmugamji, I need to speak about him, because I come from a working class political party; and he is one of very few trade union leaders in this House. He was almost a leader for me and my party. Sir, at a time when labour is looked down, when Labour Minister doesn't have time to interact with the labour trade unions, at a time when Labour Codes are being rewritten to deny the rights of the workers, at a time when media has dispensed with labour beat, there is a man, like a *sanyasi*, who fought for the rights of the workers. His absence, we all would miss in a big way.

Sir, Abdullaji is my cherished friend and he was one person who came to this House at 11 o'clock, left the House only after it was adjourned. This is the extent of hard work and homework he did. When I heard the news of him not being renominated, there was a pang of little despair; and I called up some of my DMK friends. They said, "Don't worry. He is being groomed for a larger role." So, I feel that. Thambiduraiji, he doesn't need to come here. I am waiting for the day when I can travel with him in a beacon-clad flashlight vehicle in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, Chandrasegharanji and Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, I haven't interacted much with them, but I am sure that they have contributed richly. Anbumaniji has got so many battles in his hand; even a battle against his father also. So, I feel that they have so much in their hands to fight in Tamil Nadu.

And my dear friend, Wilsonji -- he is a legal luminary. As our Chairman has resigned, and we would miss a legal luminary, I am sure that Wilsonji will fill that void here. Since he has come back, I will not say much about him. But I wish all these Members best wishes.

Sir, retiring means nothing for a politician. It is for another cause; and they are going to continue to serve the society and this nation. I wish them all the best. Thank you very much.

श्री संजय कुमार झा (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं अपनी पार्टी जनता दल यूनाइटेड और नीतीश कुमार जी की तरफ से रिटायर होने वाले हमारे छः में से पाँच साथी, जिनमें से एक श्री पी. विल्सन जी वापस आए हैं, इन सभी को शुभकामनाएँ देता हूँ।

मेरा अब्दुल्ला जी से थोड़ा इंटरैक्शन है, क्योंकि हम लोगों ने एक साथ कमेटी में काम किया है। अभी जॉन ब्रिटान्स जी सही बोल रहे थे कि ये पैशन के साथ काम करते हैं। इनका कमेटी में टाइम पर आना, क्वेश्चंस रेज करना, इश्यूज को उठाना, ये सारी चीजें मैंने देखी हैं, क्योंकि इनसे मेरा ज्यादा इंटरैक्शन रहा है। हमारे साथी, वाइको जी भी रिटायर हो रहे हैं। इन्होंने सारे विषयों पर अपनी बातों को जोरदार ढंग से यहाँ रखा है। इनका स्ट्रगल भी काफी रहा है, ये 5 साल जेल में रहे हैं। ये जब यहाँ अपनी बात रख रहे थे, तो हम इनको सुन रहे थे। जब हम लोग बाहर भी थे, तब इनकी बात सुनते थे। इन्होंने तमिल काँज़ के लिए या फिशरमेन के काँज़ के लिए हमेशा अपनी बातें यहाँ उठाईं। हम न्यूजपेपर्स में देखते थे कि श्रीलंका में जब फिशरमेन कभी अरेस्ट हो जाते थे, तब उस इश्यू को वाइको साहब सदन में स्ट्रांगली रखते थे। हमें उनसे बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिला है। मैं अपनी तरफ से और अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से इन सबको शुभकामनाएँ देता हूँ।

श्री मनोज कुमार झा (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, यहां लीडर्स बोल चुके हैं। सर, जैसे संजय भाई ने कहा, यह क्षण मेरे लिए विश्वविद्यालय में भी उचित नहीं हुआ करता था। किसी का फेयरवेल होता था, तो कई सारी चीजें दिमाग में आने लगती थीं, जैसे अब इस सीट पर कल से कोई और बैठेगा। हम used to हो जाएंगे, लेकिन वह दूसरा व्यक्ति वाइको नहीं होगा।

अब्दुल्ला जी की जितनी तारीफ करूँ, उतनी कम है। मैं लेबर कमेटी में शनमुगम जी के साथ रहा। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह व्यक्ति highly emotional व्यक्ति है, जिसने labour cause को हर मीटिंग में उसके central rostrum में लाया। चंद्रशेखर जी से भी इंटरैक्शन रहा, रामादॉस जी से उतना नहीं रहा, लेकिन जब वाइको साहब ने कहा, three musketeers — हम तीन यहां थे। ब्रिटान्स जी का प्रमोशन हो गया है, वे आगे चले गए हैं। यहां हम तीन बैठते थे और संसदीय लोकतंत्र में वे क्षण, जब हम सब across the aisle बात कर सकते हैं, संवाद कर सकते हैं। वे चीजें मैंने इन तमाम सदस्यों के मध्य देखी हैं और उनसे बहुत कुछ सीखा है।

अंत में, मैं एक टिप्पणी करूंगा। हम सब अलग-अलग विचारधारा के लोग हैं, लेकिन कुछ चीजें हमें जोड़ती हैं। डीएमके के जो साथी रिटायर हो रहे हैं या वाइको रिटायर हो रहे हैं, इन्हें social justice वाट्सऐप फॉरवर्ड से नहीं आया है। ये Periyar के tradition के लोग हैं और पेरियार के ट्रेडिशन के लोग आत्मसात करके आते हैं। मैंने इनसे बहुत कुछ सीखा है, हमारा एक रिश्ता रहा है। मैं भी तमाम सदस्यों की तरह यह मानता हूँ कि यहां से रिटायरमेंट कोई बहुत बड़ी चीज़ नहीं है। आप सार्वजनिक जीवन को उसी तरह से ऊर्जावान बनाए रखेंगे। महोदय, हमारे संसदीय लोकतंत्र की सबसे बड़ी खूबी यह है कि पक्ष और विपक्ष को मिलाकर संसद बनती है। विपक्ष और

पक्ष में शत्रुता का भाव नहीं होना चाहिए। आज जब वाइको जी बोल रहे थे, तब रोंगटे खड़े हो रहे थे। उन्होंने एक-एक व्यक्ति का नाम लिया, अटल जी का नाम लिया, डा. मनमोहन सिंह जी का नाम लिया, उन्होंने दल का दायरा नहीं देखा। इसी का नाम लोकतंत्र है। यही उत्तर-दक्षिण और पूरब-पश्चिम को एक करता है। भाषाओं की दीवार वे खड़ी करते हैं, जिनको भाषा का भाव नहीं पता है। भाव मुहब्बत का है, भाव स्नेह का है और भाव इस देश की तरक्की का है। मैं आपके माध्यम से इन सबको शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ।

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I join all my colleagues in bidding a farewell and a future full of promise to all our retiring colleagues and also in welcoming back our colleague, Shri P. Wilson. Sir, I have had the pleasure of knowing most of these people for many years, especially brother Vaiko, whom I have known since when he was a Member of the Lok Sabha, and both of us were colleagues in the Lok Sabha. After that too, for many years, when I was a Minister in the Government, I used to always get his love, affection and encouragement in whatever task we were embarking on. He has been, as all other colleagues have said, a voice for the people, a voice for the downtrodden and a voice for the Tamil language and Tamil culture.

And, I think, not only him, but even when we look at Shanmugamji, he has been a veteran in the trade union politics. But, in this House, he has been very calm, has a soothing voice and is a fatherly figure who has been very affectionate towards all his colleagues and also contributed very meaningfully to many debates in this House. Anbumani Ramadossji was a colleague of mine in the Government when he was Health Minister and I have had a chance to know him very closely. And the other colleagues, Abdullaji and Chandrasegharanji have made meaningful contributors to this House and, I would say, to the overall, progress and welfare of the nation. I, on my behalf and on behalf of my Party, would like to bid 'farewell'. At the same time, as many have said, I would say, in public life, you do not retire. In public life, once you have embarked on this journey, you carry on for life. I am sure, in many other capacities, all our colleagues, who are retiring, will, certainly, be contributing meaningfully, not only for the welfare of Tamil Nadu, but also for our great nation. Once again, on my behalf and my Party, I wish them all the best for their future endeavours. Thank you.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Respected Sir, today, we heard the fiery speech of respected Vaiko. I am able to say proudly that I am also colleague of Vaikoji. His interaction, his speeches, his issues and all things are highly close to the issues of the

people. Today, I believe, in the future, Vaikoji will contribute a lot of things not only to Tamil politics but also to national politics.

Our leader, the trade union leader, Shanmugamji — as Brittasji has already mentioned — is not only leader of the DMK, but also leader of the entire working-class community in our nation. Not only in labour issues, but also in social issues and everywhere else, Shanmugamji has taken up the issues. As a leader of the trade union, he has given a lot of inputs for our parliamentary activities.

Our dear friend Abdullaaji has spoken in Tamil and, in that speech, he mentioned a lot of issues. In the same manner, in his speeches, questions and all things, he raised a lot of issues for the people. Abdullaaji worked here in this House for the people. I believe, tomorrow, in Tamil politics, Abdullaaji will play a big role for the people.

Chandrasegharanji from Tamil Nadu is a very close friend of mine. He has contributed a lot in this House. I salute Chandrasegharanji, Anbumani Ramadossji and my dear friend, Wilsonji, a legal luminary. He will continue here in this House. These old friends have contributed a lot of things in the House. I salute them, wishing all the success for these colleagues. Thank you.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, आज जो हमारे छः साथी रिटायर हो रहे हैं, उनमें से एक विल्सन साहब वापिस आ रहे हैं। उनका अपने पूरे कार्यकाल में संसदीय कार्य प्रणाली में बड़ा योगदान रहा है। वैसे जो भी सदन में चुनकर आता है, चाहे वह किसी भी दल का हो, उस सदस्य का यह धर्म होता है कि वह अपने क्षेत्र की, अपने राज्य की समस्याओं को उठाए और लोगों के कल्याण के लिए जो भी बात कह सकता हो, कहे। इस अवसर पर यूं तो एम. शनमुगम साहब ट्रेड यूनियन लीडर थे, हैं और रहेंगे। उनका बहुत बड़ा योगदान रहा है। मैं सभी लोगों को शुभकामनाएँ देते हुए यह अवश्य कहना चाहूंगा कि इस सदन में वाइको साहब की बुलंद आवाज़ है और लोग उस आवाज़ को हमेशा याद रखेंगे। We will miss him very much. मैं उन सभी सदस्यों को, जो आज रिटायर हो रहे हैं, उनके स्वस्थ रहने, दीर्घायु रहने और सक्रिय रहने की कामना करता हूँ।

महोदय, राजनीति में कोई रिटायर नहीं होता है, अगर लोग उनके पास आते रहेंगे, तो वे सक्रिय रहेंगे। जिस दिन लोगों का आना बंद हो जाएगा, तो चाहे जितना बड़ा लीडर क्यों न हो, वह अपने आप रिटायर हो जाएगा। जनता के बीच, जनता से जुड़े रहने वाले ये ऐसे लोग हैं जो जनता के बीच ही रहेंगे, इसलिए उनके रिटायरमेंट का कोई सवाल ही नहीं है। मैं यह कामना करता हूँ कि इनका नेतृत्व इन्हें फिर से इस जिम्मेदारी के लिए यहाँ भेजे। उपसभापति महोदय, इस अवसर पर मुझे अपनी भावनाएँ व्यक्त करने का अवसर देने के लिए आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री मिलिंद मुरली देवरा (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभापति महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं अपनी पार्टी की ओर से और पूरे महाराष्ट्र की ओर से हमारे माननीय साथियों को बहुत-बहुत

शुभकामनाएं देना चाहता हूं। इसके साथ-साथ मैं उनका आभार भी व्यक्त करना चाहूंगा for their valuable contributions. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have much in common. We both are extremely passionate about our culture, language, music and theatre, and, therefore, I understand the sentiments of all the six MPs who have fought to preserve and strengthen Tamil culture. On behalf of Maharashtra, I wish them the very best, and besides the commonality of passion for our cultures, we are also respectful of other cultures. That is the sentiment the city that I belong to, Mumbai, has. We welcome other cultures, but we ask the other cultures also to respect our own culture.

I always find the word 'goodbye' a very strong word because many people, I am sure, will be back. Mr. Wilson, my friend and colleague, is already back. I congratulate him. So, instead of 'goodbye', on behalf of my party and my State, I would like to use the word 'farewell'. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB (Kerala): Sir, I also extend my best wishes to my colleagues who are retiring today. I have completed sixteen years in this House and will be here for two more years. So, I have to see some more farewells. But, I have only one thing against Mr. Vaiko. Everybody was talking about Mr. Vaiko. He also mentioned all other names, but he did not mention my name.

MR. VAIKO: I am sorry.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Then, it is okay. To Mr. Vaiko and all other hon. Members from Tamil Nadu, who are retiring today, I wish all the best on my behalf, and on behalf of my party and my leader, Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Sir, on behalf of my party, CPI, and on behalf of my State, Kerala, I wish all the retiring Members all the best in life. As we all know, a true politician never retires, and I hope all of them will continue their fight for social justice and communal harmony. At this crucial juncture, their retirement will be actually detrimental to the interest of our movement. Becoming a Member of Parliament is just one part of public life. We are all fortunate to have become the Members of Parliament, but it should not be the ultimate aim. It is just one part of social life. So, it comes and goes. We should take everything in that way. It is the ideology that matters; it is the commitment that matters. For that matter, Shri Vaiko and Shri M. Shanmugam are the two legendary parliamentarians. I came to know about Shri Vaiko during my school days. In fact, he is a very popular politician even in

Kerala. Everyone in Kerala knows him as a firebrand politician. And, I am very happy that I became his colleague in this august House. Then, Shanmugam Sir is a very close associate of our trade union leaders, especially AITUC, CITU and INTUC leaders. I do not want to take much of your time. Their commitment is known to everybody. And, of course, our young chaps, Mr. Abdulla and other Members, have a very bright future in the coming days. I take this opportunity once again to wish them a bright future. Thank you, Sir.

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामदास अठावले): डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, हमारे छः साथियों में से पाँच साथी हमें छोड़कर जा रहे हैं और उनमें से एक साथी वापस भी आ रहे हैं। इन छः साथियों में से एक साथी, अंबुमणि रामादॉस जी से मेरे बहुत अच्छे संबंध थे। मेरा भी नाम रामदास है, उनका भी नाम रामादॉस है। जब मैं काँग्रेस पार्टी के साथ था, तब अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की सरकार थी और एनडीए की उस सरकार में अंबुमणि रामादॉस जी थे। उस समय डीएमके भी हमारे साथ थी, लेकिन आज हमारे साथ नहीं है। कौन कब, कहाँ आएगा-जाएगा, यह मालूम नहीं है। हमारे डीएमके के सदस्य हमें यहाँ से छोड़कर जा रहे हैं। हमारे माननीय सदस्य, वाइको जी भी हैं।

“मैं वाइको जी पर बहुत ही हूँ फिदा,
मैं नहीं लेना चाहता उनसे विदा।”

लेकिन, वाइको जी आ सकते हैं। अगर वाइको जी हमारे साथ आएंगे, तो वे दोबारा आ सकते हैं। वाइको जी का बहुत बड़ा योगदान रहा है। तमिलनाडु में बहुत बड़ा योगदान रहा है। जब वे 1998 में पहली बार लोकसभा में चुनकर आए थे, तब मैं भी लोकसभा में चुनकर आया था। वाइको जी के साथ मेरे बहुत अच्छे संबंध थे। जब वे तिरुनेलवेली जिले में जाते थे, तब कभी-कभी मैं भी वहाँ जाता था। वाइको जी के साथ मेरे बहुत अच्छे संबंध थे। डीएमके के साथियों के साथ मेरे बहुत अच्छे संबंध थे। आप में से कुछ लोग जा रहे हैं, कुछ लोग वापस आ रहे हैं। आना-जाना लगा रहता है। कौन आएगा, यह नहीं मालूम, लेकिन जाना किसे है, यह जरूर मालूम होता है।

डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, मैं ज्यादा वक्त नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ। इन सभी साथियों का बहुत बड़ा योगदान रहा है और इन्होंने अपने इस हाउस में बहुत ही अच्छे विषय रखे हैं। अपने राज्य के लिए सवाल उठाए, समाज के लिए सवाल उठाए, सामाजिक न्याय के लिए सवाल उठाए, आर्थिक उन्नति के लिए सवाल उठाए। इसके लिए मैं इन्हें हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ। आप अपने राज्य में जाकर भी आवाज उठाते रहें - यही अपेक्षा व्यक्त करता हूँ। जय भीम, जय भारत!

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No.46. ... (*Interruptions*)... आपने अभी बहुत अच्छी तरह से चर्चा की। ...(**व्यवधान**)... राज्य सभा किस तरह काम करती है, यह अभी लोगों ने देखा। ...(**व्यवधान**)... आप लोगों ने बहुत अच्छी तरह चर्चा की, बात की। ...(**व्यवधान**)... Please go back to your seats. ... (*Interruptions*)... Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is the

Members' Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing will go on record except what the Chair permits. ...(*Interruptions*)... Question Hour. Question No. 46, Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain. ... (*Interruptions*)... Please go back to your seats. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please go back to your seats. ... (*Interruptions*)... Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... यह क्वेश्चन आवर है। ...(**व्यवधान**)... Please allow the Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is the Members' Hour. ... (*Interruptions*)... Please. The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned at twenty-nine minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock,
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA) *in the Chair.*

GOVERNMENT BILL

^{\$}The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Hon. Members, we are taking up the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025. ...(*Interruptions*)... Yesterday, the Minister moved it, and the speech of Dr. M. Thambidurai was unfinished. You can now begin, Dr. Thambidurai. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, yesterday, you gave me the chance to speak on the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Bill establishes the responsibilities, liabilities, rights and immunities in case of goods carried from any port in India to any other port in the world. ...(*Interruptions*)... Having said this, I would like to point out some issues concerning maritime threats and security. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Let him finish. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: India has a huge coastline of approximately 9,500 kilometres. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I want to make a very important point. Since 1993

^{\$} Further consideration continued on a motion moved on the 23rd of July, 2025.

Mumbai blasts, a huge cache of RDX and arms and ammunition... ..(*Interruptions*).. We have also witnessed that drugs are being smuggled into several States of India, including Tamil Nadu. ...(*Interruptions*)... Huge cache of drugs was confiscated in several parts of India. ...(*Interruptions*)... The present DMK Government in Tamil Nadu is unable to stop smuggling of drugs into the State. It is also unable to stop abuse of drugs. ...(*Interruptions*)... Drugs are freely available in Tamil Nadu near schools and colleges. ...(*Interruptions*)... The students, who are the future of India, are being brought under drug net. ...(*Interruptions*)... The DMK Government in Tamil Nadu is incapable of running the State. ...(*Interruptions*)... Due to the failure of the present Government in Tamil Nadu, people are going to throw the DMK out of power in the next year's Assembly elections. ...(*Interruptions*)... And AIADMK, under the leadership of Thiru Edappadi Palaniswami, is going to win with thumping majority and form the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Go to your seats. ...(*Interruptions*)... Don't do that. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please go to your seats. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I want to add that India has a huge coastline of approximately 9,500 kilometres. Securing the entire coastline of India ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Abdulla, go to your seat. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Maritime security has a huge security threat since time immemorial. ...(*Interruptions*)... The challenges of the coastline security are very complex. ...(*Interruptions*)... The porous nature of the vast coastline in many States makes coastal areas susceptible to illegal smuggling of arms and explosives by the terror groups and drug syndicates. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Abdulla, don't do this. ...(*Interruptions*)... Go one step up. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Since all the States manage their borders very well, there is an increased infiltration and smuggling of arms and ammunition and drugs through the sea route. ...(*Interruptions*)... Special mention should be made about the

smuggling of drugs and contraband through the sea route. This has its adverse impact on our economy and social fabric. More than this, there is a nexus between the organised smuggling gangs and terror outfits. ...*(Interruptions)*... This poses a serious challenge to our internal security. ...*(Interruptions)*... Many terror outfits use such channels to raise funds, which are further used in their terror activities. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you know very well what happened in Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is why I am requesting our hon. Minister to look into this matter and see how the goods are being transported throughout the country, especially through the sea route. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is high time that the Central Government must come forward and take necessary action. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, in Tamil Nadu, we are facing a lot of problems. I have already mentioned what is happening with regard to drugs. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, I request the Central Government to interfere. ...*(Interruptions)*... I also served as the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Let him finish.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I appreciate Modi ji's Government. This Government has taken a lot of steps to see that new rules are brought. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Because of trade, India is going to become the third-largest economy in the world in due course of time. ...*(Interruptions)*... As Narendra Modi *ji* said, India is going to be the third largest economy in the world. ...*(Interruptions)*... It means that trade is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*... For trade, hon. Minister has brought some rules and regulations. ...*(Interruptions)*... I think this is a great opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sea routes are dangerous. ...*(Interruptions)*... Many times, our Indian ships are caught by pirates in many places. ...*(Interruptions)*... At that time, the Central Government has to take a firm step to release the ship. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill is very important. In the name of some other goods, smugglers are bringing narcotics. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is a dangerous thing. I request hon. Minister to take necessary action. ...*(Interruptions)*... On behalf of the AIADMK Party and my leader, Shri Edappadi Palaniswami, I support this Bill. This Bill will give some kind of relief to our Tamil Nadu people also. ...*(Interruptions)*... Stringent action has to be taken. Smuggling of drugs in Tamil Nadu is growing. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is high time we took necessary action. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The next speaker is Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you have to speak, you have to go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Otherwise, I will call the next speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot give an alternative. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you have to speak, please go to your seat and speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you do not want to speak, just tell us. ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you speaking, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla? ...*(Interruptions)*... You are not speaking! ...*(Interruptions)*... The next speaker will be Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I thank you for this opportunity to speak on this important Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024 is a landmark piece of legislation that holds immense potential to transform the maritime trade framework of our country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please don't disturb him.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: As representatives from Andhra Pradesh, a state with a proud maritime legacy and a port-based economic activity, we recognize the importance of this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925, was a progressive law for its time, bringing clarity to the responsibilities and liabilities of carriers in maritime trade. ...*(Interruptions)*... It was based on the Hague Rules and later influenced by the Visby Rules, which integrated India into global maritime practices. However, over nearly a century, the shipping industry has undergone profound changes. ...*(Interruptions)*... Advancements in technology, shifts in global trade routes, and the evolution of international conventions now demand that we modernize our laws. The introduction of the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024, which repeals the 1925 Act, reflects this need for modernization and adaptability. ...*(Interruptions)*... This Bill proposes several significant changes. Outdated terms are replaced with simpler, clearer language to ensure that the law is easier to interpret. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Bill empowers the Central Government to amend its provisions to align with evolving international conventions, ensuring our legal framework remains with current situations...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Hon. Members, don't disturb the speaker. Let him speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: By removing redundant and transitional clauses, the Bill streamlines processes and enhances the overall effectiveness of maritime governance. *...(Interruptions)...* There are a lot of positive things in this Bill. This Bill has a wide geographical and operational reach, applying to goods transported from Indian ports to destinations both domestic and international. *...(Interruptions)...* For Andhra Pradesh, its key maritime infrastructure, like Visakhapatnam Port, which is vital for international trade, ensures that the State's interests are well represented and safeguarded in the broader framework. *...(Interruptions)...* It also simplifies legal language. *...(Interruptions)...*

It makes it easier to understand for shipping companies, traders and legal professionals. Sir, by carefully balancing the protection of carriers with accountability through specific exceptions like acts of God or quarantine restrictions, the Bill creates a comprehensive and fair framework for liability. *...(Interruptions)...* Also, it brings a lot of economic and strategic benefits. *...(Interruptions)...* For Andhra Pradesh, this Bill represents a transformative opportunity. *...(Interruptions)...* The YSR Congress Government, under Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy, at that time, had revitalised four greenfield ports at Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam, Mulapeta and Kakinada with a total investment of Rs. 20,000 crore, which adds a capacity of 110 million tonnes per annum by 2025-26 and generates employment opportunities for around 75,000 people. *...(Interruptions)...* This Bill will further complement these efforts. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, I have some suggestions. *...(Interruptions)...* There are technological and digital considerations. *...(Interruptions)...* While the Bill represents a significant step forward, we believe there is room for further integration of technological considerations. *...(Interruptions)...* The global maritime industry is rapidly digitizing and our legislation must keep pace with it. *...(Interruptions)...* Also, State-level consultation mechanism need to be brought in. *...(Interruptions)...* We have to establish a consultation process with coastal States for future amendments. *...(Interruptions)...* States like Andhra Pradesh, with extensive maritime infrastructure, can provide invaluable insights. *...(Interruptions)...* There is also environmental and sustainability perspective that we need to bring in. *...(Interruptions)...* We also need to bring in incentive for modernisation of ports and shipping practices. *...(Interruptions)...* Also, we need to provide periodic review mechanism. *...(Interruptions)...* A clause mandating a periodic review of the Act's provisions would ensure that the legislation remains up-to-date over time. *...(Interruptions)...* This mechanism would prevent the need for frequent repeals and re-enactments, allowing the law to adapt smoothly to changing circumstances. *...(Interruptions)...* Also, enhanced protections for small and medium traders need to be brought in.

...(Interruptions)... Sir, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025 is a forward-looking Bill and this legislation addresses the need for modernization in India's maritime sector. ...(Interruptions)... It also reflects our commitment to evolving governance and staying relevant in a rapidly changing world. ...(Interruptions)... On behalf of YSR Congress Party and our leader, Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, I extend our support for the passage of this Bill. ...(Interruptions)... At the same time, I urge the Central Government to consider the suggestions made today to ensure that the legislation is comprehensive and inclusive. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुबनेश्वर कालिता): थैंक यू। ...(व्यवधान)... डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी जी।

डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय सदस्य आपकी अनुमति से बोल रहे हैं, लेकिन उनके बोलने के समय कुछ माननीय सदस्य उनकी सीट पर जाकर उनको obstruct कर रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... रूल नम्बर 235. ...(व्यवधान)... आप कृपा करके रूल नम्बर 235(2) देख लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आपकी अनुमति से माननीय सदस्य बोल रहे हैं और ये वहाँ जाकर उनको बाधित कर रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुबनेश्वर कालिता): ठीक है। ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय बाजपेयी जी, ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय बाजपेयी जी, आपने अपना प्वाइंट बोल दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी: रूल 235 के तहत ...(व्यवधान)... आप देखिए, वे बराबर उनकी सीट पर जाकर, उनके माइक पर हल्ला कर रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सदस्य आपकी अनुमति से बोल रहे हैं और उसके बावजूद उनको बाधित किया जा रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)... इसमें रूल 235 पूरे तरीके से आकर्षित होता है। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने का भी निवेदन करता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुबनेश्वर कालिता): श्री प्रमोद तिवारी जी, आप कौन से रूल के तहत बोल रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: रूल 235. ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुबनेश्वर कालिता): रूल 235 बड़ा है। ...(व्यवधान)... उसका कौन सा Clause है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): रूल 235. ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक ट्रेडिशन यह है कि आपकी पीठ से माननीय सभापति जी के कई बार निर्देश हैं कि जब सभा के नेता या विपक्ष के नेता बोलने के लिए खड़े होंगे, तो सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता उनको दी जाएगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय विपक्ष के नेता इतनी बार से खड़े हो रहे हैं और आप मुझे आश्वासन भी दे रहे हैं, परन्तु उन्हें बोलने का अवसर नहीं दे रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं इस पर आपकी व्यवस्था चाहता हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता) : बिल पर डिस्कशन शुरू हो गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इस पर डिस्कशन शुरू हो गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर विपक्ष के नेता इस बिल पर बोलना चाहेंगे, तो उनको जरूर मौका दिया जाएगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Friday, the 25th July, 2025.

The House then adjourned at fifteen minutes past two of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 25th July, 2025.

