

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, August 8, 2022/ Sravana 17, 1944 (Saka)

FAREWELL TO HON'BLE CHAIRMAN

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI): We all have come to thank the Chairman of the House and the Vice President of the country, respected Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu ji at the end of his tenure. This is a very emotional moment for this House. So many historic moments of the House are associated with your dignified presence, yet many times you have said, 'I have retired from politics, but not tired of public life.' Although your responsibility of leading this House is getting complete, but the country will keep on getting the benefit of your experiences for a long time in future and several public life workers like us will also continue to get it. Today, when the country is starting a new journey of the next 25 years in the Amrit Festival of Independence, then the leadership of the country is also in a way in the hands of a new era. We all are aware that this year we are celebrating our Independence day, in a scenario when the President, the Vice President, the Speaker and the Prime Minister in the office, all are born in independent India and all of them are from a very humble background. You are such a Vice President of the country, who has always worked for the

***This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.**

youth in all his roles. You always encouraged young MPs in the House and inspired them too. You have been visiting universities and institutions regularly to interact with the youth. You have a constant connect with the new generation, the youth have got your guidance and the youth have always been eager to meet you. Your popularity has also been very high in all these institutions.

I was told that as Vice-President, about 25 percent of the speeches you delivered outside the House were among the youth. This in itself is a big feat. Personally, I have been fortunate to have seen you in different roles from close quarters. Many of your roles have also been such that I have had the privilege of working alongside you. Your ideological commitment as a party worker, your work as a MLA, your activism in the House as a Member of Parliament, your organizational skills and leadership as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, your hard work as a Cabinet Minister, your efforts to innovate and the successes achieved thereto, all these have been very beneficial for the country. I have seen you work diligently as the Vice President and the Chairman of the House. You have never considered any work as a burden, you have tried to breathe new life into every work. We have always constantly seen your devotion, your passion. Through this House, I would like to tell every honorable MP and every youth of the country that they can learn a lot from you about society, country and democracy. Books like 'Listening, Learning, Leading', 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing' and 'Reflecting, Recollecting, Reconnecting', tell a lot about you. The reason that I mentioned your books is because their title reflects your word talent for which you are known. Your one liners - those are wit liners and those are win liners as well, that means, there is no need to say anything else after that. Whatever we say is important, but the way we say it matters a lot. The measure of the success of any dialogue is that it has a deep impact, people remember it and whatever you say, people are forced to think about it. All the people of the country are well aware of the skill of Venkaiah ji in this art of expression, both in the House and outside the House. Your style of expression is as impeccable as it is unique. Your words have depth as well as seriousness. You started your political journey as an ordinary student worker from South India and reached the top post of National President of the party. This is a symbol of your unrelenting conscientiousness, commitment and devotion to work. If we have feelings for

the country, art of speaking, faith in linguistic diversity, then language and region never become an obstruction for us, and you have proved this. I have always heard that you have been very passionate, very assertive about mother tongue, but your way of speaking is also very beautiful when you say mother tongue is like eyesight and the second language is like spectacles. Such a feeling comes out from the depths of the heart. During your tenure, every Indian language has been given special importance during the proceedings of the House. You worked for the promotion of all Indian languages in the House. You made this arrangement in the House that any hon'ble member can speak in all our 22 scheduled languages.

Your talent, your loyalty will always serve as a guide for the House in future also. You will remain an inspiration for how one can express his point effectively in a parliamentary and courteous manner within the limits of language. Your leadership ability, your discipline have given new heights to the commitment and productivity of this House. The productivity of the Rajya Sabha has increased by 70 percent during the years of your tenure. The attendance of the members in the house has increased. During this period, about 177 bills were passed or discussed upon, which is a record in itself. Many such laws have been made under your guidance, which are still realizing the concept of India. You have taken so many decisions, which will be remembered for the upward journey of the Upper House. You had constituted a Committee to bring more efficiency in the work of the Secretariat. Similarly, through your initiatives like streamlining of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, promotion of information technology, implementation of e-office system for paperless work, etc., the Upper House has attained a new height. You used to give instructions to the hon'ble Members and also have been guiding them by sharing your experiences and also used to scold them mildly to maintain discipline. I am sure none of the Members have ever taken any of your words otherwise. This wealth is created when in personal life you follow those ideals and standards. You have always emphasized that disruption in the Parliament beyond a certain limit amounts to contempt of the House. I see the maturity of democracy in these standards of yours. Earlier it was understood that if the House is not in order during a discussion, the proceedings would be adjourned, but through conversation, connection and coordination, you not only conducted the House, but also made it productive. During the proceedings of the House, whenever a situation of

conflict between the Members erupted, you used to repeat - *"Let the Government propose, let the Opposition oppose, let the House dispose."* This House certainly has the right to assent or dissent on the Bills sent from the other House. This House can pass, reject or amend them, but our democracy does not have the idea to stop or obstruct them. Despite all our agreements and disagreements, all the Members of the House are present together to bid you farewell today. That is the beauty of our democracy. This reflects the respect for you in this House. I hope that your work and your experiences will definitely inspire all the Members in future. In your own unique way, you have set such criteria for running the House, which will continue to inspire those who will hold this post. The legacy that you have established will be followed by the Rajya Sabha. With this belief, on behalf of the entire house, on my own behalf, I wish you many many good wishes. I also thank you for all the contributions you have made to the country and to this House.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir! You remained a Member of Rajya Sabha for 19 years, thrice elected as the Member of Rajya Sabha from Karnataka. From leading the 'Jai Andhra' movement till now, you have played many roles in your long political career. You were also a Member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly twice between 1978 and 1985. From 2008 to 2014, you were also the Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. When we, the people of Karnataka, appealed to you regarding Article 371-J that it is pending for a long time, you, being the Chairman of the Standing Committee, accepted it immediately. A constitutional amendment in this regard was brought in the Parliament. I thank you for that too. You have been active towards bringing several changes and also advocated that a national policy should be framed to have Upper Houses in all the major states. In addition to the need to emerge consensus on the Women's Reservation Bill, you spoke openly about many other things. I am sure the Government will complete the work which you are leaving unfinished. We belong to two different ideologies in the Rajya Sabha. It is natural that I may have some complaints about you, but those complaints are not relevant at this time, because you have played your role despite so many difficulties, for which I thank you. So far, 14 full sessions of the Rajya Sabha have been held under your patronage. You have arranged the facility of giving online notices for the Members from the Monsoon

Session of 2018 onwards. You have given opportunity to the Members to speak in all 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, which will facilitate many MPs to speak in their mother tongue. You have also inspired and encouraged the MPs from non-Hindi areas to speak in Hindi. Whatever role you were in, you kept raising the issue of the people of the villages. As Rural Development Minister in Atal ji's government, you started '*Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*'. I hope you will never retire from public life and will never feel tired. Even after leaving the second highest constitutional post of the country, you will work more actively among the citizens and will continue to guide the young generation on democracy, equality and the other fundamental elements of the Constitution. Even during the Corona pandemic, you tried to run the House with immense efforts. The work of reviewing the rules, which you started in the year 2018, should be taken forward in consultation with all the parties, because many rules need to be changed. Both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha have specific roles. Hence the merger of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV should not have happened. Rajya Sabha may be the centre of politics of different ideologies, there may be some differences in the views, but everyone's goal and dream should be for inclusive growth of the country, protecting democracy and constitution and maintaining the unity of the country. We hope that you will always fight for these objectives. I extend my best wishes for your health and meaningful life.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir! You must write your autobiography now, which may start with the mention of the tragic circumstances, in which you lost your mother in early childhood. You belong to an agricultural family. When on 20th September, 2020, the Farm Bills were passed by this House, you were not on the Chair. I hope you would explain it in the autobiography. On the 1st March, 2013, as a Member of Opposition in this House, you had made an intervention during a discussion on phone tapping. But when we tried such a discussion on Pegasus, we did not get permission. You advised that the Government and Opposition should talk to each other and solve the issues. But, we could not get answer of one question from hon'ble Prime Minister during your tenure. I congratulate you on the achievement with regard to productivity of this House in your tenure. But, there is another aspect also and I hope you will speak your mind in the autobiography that only very few Bills are being referred now to the

Committees for scrutiny. We would also remember the delicious food you served us as a great host.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Only in the agony of parting, do we look into the depths of love. Today, we are bidding you farewell only because it is customary. We have a special regard for you. I shower upon you profusely, our thanks, appreciations and congratulations for your tenure in this august House as Chairman. You are a lion because only a lion can bring behind it all the animals in the forests in a disciplined manner. You have left very great practices. You advised everyone, 'please protect, enrich your mother tongue and at the same time, learn some other language also'. You advised for the first time to omit the word 'to beg' which was definitely indigestible and just say 'to lay the papers'. Again, you allowed us to use the words 'yours sincerely' in place of 'yours faithfully' in the notices addressed to the Secretary-General. You always upheld the decorum and dignity of this House. I request you to write an autobiography which will be your real contribution to the posterity of this country.

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: When I came to this House, being in the opposition, I had to face your anger and your displeasure many times regarding my issues, but today I want to submit it to the whole country through this House that I am one such fortunate MP, who has received immense love and guidance from you. You have always emphasised to maintain the dignity of the House. If I have made any mistake in these four-and-a-half years, then I apologize to you with folded hands. There was nothing personal about it and it was on the issues of the people. You had a sentence - 'Unity in diversity - the distinguishing feature of India'. You allowed us to speak in the House in all languages, even those that were our local languages.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: It is a very heavy day for me and I do not want to bid you farewell, honestly. But, then life has its own transitions. I want to first thank you on behalf of my party, Biju Janata Dal, on behalf of our leader, Shri Naveen Patnaikji, for your service to the nation and for your service to this House and being the great man that you are, with your simplicity, with your charm, with your dedication, with your commitment. I had been to your Chamber once and you had said, 'Sasmit, why don't you speak in Oriya? It is your mother tongue! Speak more!' The next day, I spoke

in Oriya, which was my first Zero Hour mention on a specific topic. You were on the Chair. You appreciated it in the House and also sent a note to me saying 'you spoke well'. In August, 2020, when I suddenly had a phone call in the evening saying that I have been appointed to the Panel of Vice-Chairmen of Rajya Sabha, I was surprised. When I called you and said, I am only thirteen months into Rajya Sabha, you said, 'I believe in you; I stand by you; you do your work and keep working hard.' You have always been a friend of Odisha. Whenever we have brought matters of Odisha before you, you have always given us a patient hearing. Your presence in the Chair inspired not only the Members of Parliament of Rajya Sabha, you have also inspired every youth of the nation.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Needless to mention, every Telugu person today is proud that this august House is chaired by a Telugu man. On behalf of nine crore Telugu people, I say that you have made us really proud. Your political rise is inspirational for all of us, not only for Nellorites but also for the entire country. As the hon. Prime Minister said, I really appreciate your articulation and command over the languages, Telugu, Hindi and English and Tamil also. When I came to this House 6 years ago, I used to sit in the last row. I thought I might not get a chance to speak. But you gave me a chance to speak. Not only me, but all the new Members got a chance to speak. I thank you on behalf of everyone. May you always be healthy and happy!

SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: I have never seen such an atmosphere as it is today. I am seeing a mixed feeling of happiness and sorrow in the House on the occasion of your farewell. It is the result of the love and affection you have given to all of us. This is a tradition that everyone has to vacate the chair one day. What is heartening is you not only gave due respect to all the honourable Members but also gave them a chance to put across their views in a congenial environment and also worked towards ensuring the well-being of the people at large. Your words will remain etched in our memories for a long time and your name will be taken with respect in the political space and pages of history of this country. We all pray that your life after you demit this position is happy and healthy and you are able to continue with your work of taking the society and the country on the path of progress.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: I endorse whatever has been spoken here by my esteemed and senior colleagues, including the hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. You belong to the category of Statesmen with an organic thinking. You are a living example of the great diversity of this nation. You are simply the king of hospitality. I don't think anybody else in this House can match with it. There is a feeling, amongst many, that you would go down in the history as the President the nation has missed. This is something which I thought I should say. I cannot think of a Chairman who got involved with the nitty-gritty of the House like you. You used to get involved even in the minutest aspect of the House. You are leaving at a time when we require you more . You had the conviction that though some of the parties may be insignificant in numbers, their voices are relevant and vital to the existence of this nation as a plural polity. I would be failing in my personal duty if I don't speak about my experience. Please give me one minute. After making my maiden speech, I got a call from the Vice-President's house. You told me that you may not agree with me fully, but my speech was wonderful and you appreciated the homework which I did. You said that after reading all the newspapers, you were so sad that not even a single newspaper brought a single line about my speech, which had impressed you. You did not stop there. After two days, at a public function, you narrated this and you also said about the sad plight of journalism. It was a perfect indictment of the media which is indulging in trivial sensationalism and is frivolous. I was also partially responsible. Power based on love, you said, is thousand times more effective and permanent than the one derived from fear of punishment. Wish you all the best for all your future endeavours.

SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Respected Chairman Sir, just as the head of a family looks after all the members, in the same way after coming to the Rajya Sabha, you saw, understood and gave directions to all the members as a guardian. You presided over 13 sessions. 177 bills were passed under your chairmanship. On behalf of my family, on behalf of my party, on behalf of the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar ji, on behalf of the 13 crore people of Bihar, on behalf of the number of Members in the Rajya Sabha, I wish you all the best. I wish you health.

***DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** Sir, I recall and recollect the long friendship I have with you since the days you came to Parliament in 1998. I had the opportunity of seeing you in Rajya Sabha participating in many of its activities. I have seen your hard work and pleasant manners in dealing with friends and fellow Members which have been the prime reasons of your steady growth. We are very grateful to you. As Minister for Rural Development, under the able leadership of Shri Modi, as Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Urban Development, Housing and Poverty Alleviation and others, you have given us impeccable administration. Your contribution to the success of the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is commendable. Also Sir, you are a true leader who gives importance to all national languages. You gave opportunity to Members to speak in their mother tongue. That was one of your initiatives that we appreciate and won't forget. In the spirit of true federalism, you showed us how our Indian culture and diversity need to be preserved. As everybody here has said, there is no retirement in your life. There is still a lot to do. I am hoping that God willing, you would come to Parliament once again to guide us in some other capacity. You would have many more opportunities in the future to serve Mother India. May God bless you with good health, happiness and joy!

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I consider it my honour to have known you since the days you came to Parliament. We have very many fond memories. You have always been very kind and very supportive. I have seen you in different roles. When you were a Minister in Shri Vajpayee's Government, as the Rural Development Minister, we would come to you many a time with work from our constituencies and you would be more than willing and forthcoming to help and support any good work that any Member of Parliament, irrespective of Party affiliations, may come to you with. As the Chairman, you have encouraged many new Members. I acknowledge the fact how you have been giving them opportunities to speak about the areas of interests which Members of Parliament may have, and also the fact that you have been troubled a lot by us. In the House, I have seen many emotional moments which you have gone through. We know very well that you have drawn a Laxman Rekha for decorum in this House, which we always adhered to. All I can say is that we wish you all the very best. You go from here, start

* Spoke in Tamil.

your work in some other place. I request you to stay healthy wherever you are, but never say goodbye to us.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I have seen this farewell program of all the honourable Chairmen, right from Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma ji till now, but I had a lot of personal attachment with you. I got affection from you. Today you are getting free from all protocols, all shackles, so in future you can give message to people freely with your strong will, no matter when you go to universities. People will definitely call and you are very expert in speaking your mind, so there should be no restriction in this. Whenever you have to say anything in the interest of the country, in the interest of the Constitution, I would expect you to say it in the same manner.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: You told me that ideologies might differ, but the man, greatness of humankind should remain. When I used to see your face with sadness, I would like to tell you now that I felt so sad as if my uncle was feeling sad with me. I strongly opposed you, and that opposition was ideological. But, our love for you, regard for you, respect for you is unchanged. Nobody can change it. We thank you for upholding the greatness of this great country. We thank you for the commitment that you have cherished for the values of democracy. We thank you for the agonies that you might have experienced in your noble struggle to remain as a secular democrat in this difficult political landscape. I embrace you with all love, all respect, all affection, with the feeling that you are somebody so close to our hearts.

SHRI RAMJI: Farewell is an emotional moment and in this emotional moment it is certain that what young people like us and all others learn from that person! We have learned a lot from you. We read about the struggle of your life, whether it was 'Jai Andhra Movement', or 'Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti' of Jayaprakash Narayan ji, you fought concertedly in all these movements. Your energy and your patriotism are the source of inspiration for all of us, which will always inspire us all.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Your entire tenure as Presiding Officer of this august House has been very eventful and remarkable with innovations. Under your leadership, I have learnt so many things like how to become a good Parliamentarian. I do not have any

hesitation to say that you are pride of the country in general, and, of Telugu people, in particular. The way you promoted the usage of Indian languages in the House and encouraged more and more Members to speak in their mother tongue while raising issues in the House is appreciated by one and all. The books written by you during your tenure as the Presiding Officer of this august House stand testimony to the scholarly aptitude you have within yourself. Under your auspicious leadership many efforts were made to reduce the usage of paper in the day-to-day functioning of the House. Let me thank you for your encouraging words, both to the Treasury Benches and the Opposition. I also thank you for your guidance, which I hope will continue forever.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): You have given us so much faith that we will not be afraid of anyone. Your style was very good. You used to take everyone along with you. You are very experienced; you have had a great experience running the house. You have been with us for five years and you have done the job of giving opportunity to all the Members. I am a member of Republican party, on behalf of this party, I congratulate you heartily.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I am standing here not to say goodbye or farewell to you because goodbye or farewell is not applicable to you. Because your work, your advice, your guidance will always remind us as to what a personality you were. As the Minister of Rural Development, you were the most successful Minister. You are a very learned person. It reflects in your speeches in the Parliament from where we can learn many things in our life. You are a very strong supporter, strong motivator for mother tongue or mother language. I, on behalf of the people of Assam and on behalf of the entire North-Eastern Region, pray to Maa Kamakhya to bless you good health, so that you continue to contribute to our society, to our democracy, to our educational system and to our parliamentary system.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Normally I talk very less. But today, I am speechless. As the Venkaiah Naiduji we know, we expect a lot from you. You told us and even to the BJP Members that after this assignment, you are not going to public politics. We expect more from you than only public

politics. You have a lot of experience. I remember that on my invitation, you came to our college. It was a wonderful experience; you gave advice to youth. You can still do that. I have just one recommendation. You used to be the BJP President. When you demit office, tell them that there should be democratic atmosphere in India, at least in Parliament. I expect all the cooperation from you.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: As you assumed the office of the Vice-President of the country and that of Chairman, Rajya Sabha, you brought with you rich parliamentary experience both from the Opposition side and from the Treasury Benches. This experience has definitely helped you in conducting the proceedings of this august House with wit and wisdom, and benefited each Member of the House to contribute to nation-building. Your rich administrative experience across Ministries has come in handy in maintaining the morale of officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. At various fora, you highlighted the importance of the language, especially the mother tongue, and protecting our constitutional values. We all know your hard work, dedication and concern for the nation. I am sure with your vast experience in public life, you will continue to guide the younger generations through your writings and public interactions.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: I stand in the House to express my immense gratitude towards you for the inclusive and inspiring leadership you have exhibited as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. I consider it as my honour to have worked under your Chairmanship, witnessing your passionate efforts in strengthening the parliamentary democracy in our country. There are various instances where this House experienced heated arguments, which were masterfully diffused by your unbiased approach and light humour, simultaneously ensuring the gravity of the issue at hand was not compromised. I would also like to thank you for acting as a strong bridge between the south and the national capital. Your presence has ensured that southern States will not be overlooked. Your tenure and presence as the Chairman had made an impact in Rajya Sabha with your interventions, deliberations, words, actions and decisions. Your name will always be remembered in every nook and corner of this august House.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: As a politician and a public figure, you have immensely contributed for the growth and development of

my country in all spheres. You know India and its States by heart. Your advocacy for mother tongue inspired me to deliver a speech in Assamese in Rajya Sabha. I will always remember you as an advocate of mother tongue and as an advocate of multi-linguistic and multi-cultural diversity of India.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Perhaps, I am addressing you as Honorable Chairman Sir for the last time. The speakers before me have talked a lot about struggles of your life and about your achievements. For some, the moment of goodbye, the moment of farewell, the moment of farewell is not very easy. It takes time for a person to adjust. When I came to this House, you first told me the value of time. You have such an impression on me that now I go to the university for a 50-minute class, then after three to five minutes I will see that you are not saying that your time is up. We all come from different ideological, political backgrounds. We fight against each other very vehemently, but in BAC meetings you would often say not to stop the conversation. I have to appeal on this occasion today that this practice of dialogue should not end.

SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY: I appreciate your wisdom, articulation, keeping cool and handling the various situations in this House very diligently. I will always remember your words of wisdom that we have collective responsibility in this House to work and encourage healthy debates as we are accountable to billions of people as their representatives who have sent us here to represent them and the respective States. It is an inspiration for all of us who have witnessed you as a young rebel student activist raising issues of student rights. To defend the democracy of this great nation, you spent so much difficult nights in the Emergency. You founded a social service organisation called 'Swarna Bharat' in your hometown at Nellore which runs a school for poor, orphaned and special-need children and self-employment. You are leaving behind a legacy of retired but not tired.

SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA: The constitutional morality which is very important for country, we find it lacking in many personalities but you have been able to uphold that. When there has been an attempt to say that we have a singular attitude, you have impressed upon us with your sense of plurality. That is the personality which has impressed me. Basic education of yours really enlightened us to confirm our faith in Indian secularism, constitutional morality and plurality. We are

not letting you go from us but you are, by call of nature, by the rule, leaving the Chair, but remaining in our heart permanently.

SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA: I will always remember you as my first Chairman, when I came to this House and started my parliamentary career. It is my privilege that when I started my parliamentary career, I had your patronage. You taught me the lesson of punctuality and you also got my Oath done. The journey that you had, the journey that has been there, matches the journey of our people in some way or the other. It is an inspiration to all of us youth. From an ordinary worker, you took the charge as an MLA, MP, Minister and then as the Vice President of the country. In the first session of the Rajya Sabha in 1952, Dr. Radhakrishna Saheb, the then Chairman, had said that I do not belong to any party and that means I belong to every party in the House. It will be my endeavor to uphold the traditions, the highest traditions of parliamentary democracy and act with fairness towards every party and goodwill towards all. You made all those words meaningful.

SHRIMATI P.T. USHA: You are a great orator and scholar who always stood along with the downtrodden people. We always extend our love and affection towards your gentle parenting. You will always live in our hearts, as a master of oratory. On behalf of our entire Indian sports fraternity, I express my deep gratitude towards your true sportsman spirit, which reflects in your entire life and as Chairman of this august House. I wish that you would continue to serve the nation and community as a whole.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: I remember that exactly five years ago, you were gracious enough to preside over my farewell at a time when there was a lot of palpable tension about my departure from Government. I saw the degree of pettiness that I thought I would never live to see, but you rose above that pettiness to say very gracious words. They are inscribed in my heart and that is the impression I have carried. I followed your knowledgeable interventions and speeches but the quality of debate in the House is not packed with that degree of knowledge any more. I shall remember your fairness both as a Minister and on the Chair. I would say that you will continue to hold your head high and continue to contribute.

***SANT BALBIR SINGH: (Spoke in Punjabi)**

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: This House has seen many farewells but in the last ten years that I have been here, it has not been a farewell as sombre an atmosphere as this. It is different only because of the person and personality that you are. You have been a disciplinarian. You have been very strict. Sometimes, you reminded us of a head master in a school. Even though you are strict with us, you try to imbibe discipline in us. You have been witty with your repartees. You have been witty with the kind of rhymes in your sentences, which you just exhibited. You have been extremely passionate. That is what made you very different. You encouraged Members to speak in their mother-tongue, pushing them to attend Committee meetings. Even when important issues were spoken about, your voice itself vibrated and showed that you were very concerned about that issue. You and your entire family have been a wonderful host. I had the opportunity and honour of inviting you to two functions. And then I got to know that you had your fans outside the Parliament also. In Covid times when the situation was very bad in Pune, can never forget that you had called me up to ask about my own welfare, my family's welfare and the welfare of the Punekars. I have never had an experience earlier like this. You have been like an elder brother to all of us, sisters. I especially wish you good health. All the best for the new innings which is coming forth

SHRI P. WILSON: When I first saw you, I felt that you have all the good qualities of a fair judge. You allowed equal opportunity to all. Your endeavour was to uphold the dignity and the honour of this House. All politicians should take inspiration from you and train themselves as to how to conduct themselves in this August house. I come from Tamil Nadu. You are very close to the hearts of the people in Tamil Nadu and I pray that you should settle down in our home State. You have given us a lot of love and affection. All of us will try to carry forward whatever you have taught us and, certainly we will take it forward. We will always miss you.

* Synopsis of speech delivered by Hon'ble Member in Punjabi will be published separately as supplement.

***THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (Spoke in Gujarati)**

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Two distinguished Indians from Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh have occupied the position of Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The first was one of the builder of Modern India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. And, the second to leave a distinctive mark on Indian political life is you. When you took over you said, 'If you cooperate, I can operate.' And today after our cooperation and your operation, the day of separation has come. It is a very emotional moment for all of us because you have conducted this House in a very unusual way. People have praised you for your remarkable achievements like allowing all languages of India to be spoken in this House and gave equal opportunity to youngsters. In my opinion you are also the only Chairman who has adjourned the House while standing up; you are the only Chairman who has adjourned the House as soon as he has sat down; and, you are the only Chairman whose decisions have, sometimes, mystified not only the Opposition but also the ruling party. In this way, you have been very fair. I think that is a hallmark of a true Chairman that you have treated all of us equally, given all of us equal opportunity, and conducted the proceedings of this House, at very tense moments, in a spirit of wit and humour. Mostly people's sense of humour is directed at somebody else. You are one of the very few, who directs his sense of humour at himself. Many people aspire to be great in public life, but you have aspired to be good. You will be remembered long after the great men have been forgotten because you are a good, kind and a large-hearted man. You are moving to 1, Tyagraj Marg. But the correct name is 'Tyagaraja'. So, I hope, you will ensure that the name of the house that you will occupy for the next innings of your life will be 'Tyagaraja Marg' and not 'Tyagraj Marg'.

* Synopsis of speech delivered by Hon'ble Member in Gujarati will be published separately as supplement.

***THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; THE MINISTER OF COAL; AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (Spoke in Kannada)**

SHRI DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (SHRI HARIVANSH): My first memory of yours is of the time when I was a young student. I saw a picture of you at Jaiprakashji's house in Everyman Magazine with a huge rally, in which you were holding the hands of Jayaprakashji and that picture of Andhra got etched in. It became clear to me that you have chosen a different path for yourself as a youth fighting for change, as a struggling student leader. We had heard in our childhood that who walks off the beaten track, only he can make a new path. You have endorsed this belief with your life. Two hon'ble Parliamentarians, mentioned the famous poem 'Woods Are Lovely' by Robert Frost, but looking at your life I am reminded of another poem by Robert Frost - 'The road less travelled'. When you entered political life in Andhra, you chose that ideology, which had probably no believers there then. Yet you started your political journey assuming that we will make a new path with our conviction. That's the essence of life, 'The Road Less Travelled'. Later on, you learnt surrendering to the life through the politics of conviction. If there is conviction towards politics, towards one's ideology and beliefs, then nothing is impossible. You have proved this and it will always inspire the generations to come. Will. I would like to say a few things about my personal experience. When I first came as an MP, I got a chance to work with with you in the Consultative Committee. I understood from the first meeting that to work with you, doing my homework was necessary. There was a meeting on the occasion of Telugu New Year, you showed the household things, the things of the village, used as symbols on that day ordered from your home, with enthusiasm to all the members and offered them to eat the things which are a part of your life, a part of your personality. I got the message from it that how deep is your attachment to the soil, healthy customs, traditions, culture and languages of India. What are the things, the country can gain strength from in comparison to the so-called storm of modernity and the elite class of the country. This we learned from you. When I became Deputy Chairman, I got the opportunity to

* Synopsis of speech delivered by Hon'ble Member in Kannada will be published separately as supplement.

work with you more closely. I would like to say that without your guidance, support, advice and encouragement, it would have been very difficult for me to discharge my duties as Deputy Chairman. I will always remember the support and guidance, which you gave to me in every critical movement, and it will continue to inspire and guide me. I would like to talk about some things which I learned from you without your mentioning of them. Your personality, your conduct, your working style - punctuality is commendable. Gandhiji used to say "Indiscipline is Violence" and we learnt how you brought self-discipline in your life and how much you were attached to the country, to the soil of this country.

You have always said in the Rajya Sabha that new Members should be constantly encouraged. They should get enough time to debate, raise issues and also get a chance to speak. You have a wonderful art and ability to play with words and cultivate words. I have been continuously reading your thought-provoking articles. The way you have been writing eloquently in relation to the House, especially with regard to parliamentary traditions, I have constantly tried to absorb each and every word from them. I have been a witness to your respect for parliamentary rules, business and your happiness when the House have excellent debates and your pain when the House is not functioning. In the challenging times of Kovid 19, you have constantly encouraged and inspired all of us to work carefully and perform our duties properly. You have always promoted the use of technology, digitization and e-office system to make the House and Secretariat paperless. That message of your life will always remain as an inspiration for people like us that you rose from the village to the post of Vice President and your public life was remarkable and spotless. During the 249th session of the Rajya Sabha, you said, "As the House of Elders, we need to lead by example. It is a privilege that people bestowed on us. The expectations are high. Our responsibilities are onerous. We can ill-afford to regret over lost opportunities that we had. If we fail, we fail our people, we fail our nation." As long as we are here, this lesson will surely remain in our mind. May you live long, may you always be healthy, may you always be active, may you continue to guide and encourage the country and all of us in the same way!

LEADER OF THE HOUSE THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Today many MP friends gave their views. There are many friends who did not get a chance to speak. I will try to share some thoughts about the mixed feelings we all have in our hearts for you. The happiness of your successful and historic tenure is also in our hearts. Also, your absence in the next session will also hurt all of us. We will remember the impartial manner in which you conducted the proceedings of this House. You have enhanced the dignity of the House. Very important decisions were taken during your tenure, which will have an impact on the politics of India and in our history forever. Very important Bills were passed in this House under your chairmanship. I received your guidance while discharging different responsibilities. I got a chance to learn from you. When I became an MP for the first time in 2010, and our party ordered me to speak on the Bill relating to the IRDA and SEBI dispute, I was a little nervous as I had been in Parliament for only four days. Then the way you encouraged me, actually made it very easy for me to make my maiden speech. The Deputy Chairman explained in detail about your political journey that started from the time of Jai Prakash Narayan ji. Honorable Prime Minister also shared many of his personal experiences about Honorable Venkaiah Naidu. But the three aspects of Venkaiah ji's life, which have affected all of us at some point or the other, are travelling, talking and training. He have gone to each and every corner of the country performing different responsibilities. He has deeply deliberated on the ground realities of the country. Similarly his oratory was talked about by many honorable Members today. His wit, his humor attracts everyone. He inspire all of us to speak in our mother tongue. He insists that decency should be maintained in the House. One of his specialties was that he always tried to make the House run smoothly with the cooperation of all. Thirdly, his nature of educating people has benefited all of us at different times and this benefit will remain with all of us throughout our life. The productivity of the House under your leadership has been the highest since 2010. From you we got to learn how important it is to be punctual. You also organized training sessions and workshops for MPs and MLAs from time to time which have benefited all of us. This Upper House has learned a lot from your skill, political acumen and management skills and the way you have run the House. We are all grateful to you, for your leadership.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think today is the last day of the Session. Keeping that in mind, I will just make a few observations. We are the largest parliamentary democracy in the world. We are very fortunate that our forefathers, the Constitution-makers and the great freedom fighters have given their life and their best to the country and gave us the great Constitution and this parliamentary democratic system. In this parliamentary democracy, we being the Upper House, have a greater responsibility. The entire world is watching India. India is on the rise.

I only appeal to the Members of the Rajya Sabha and to those who are going to come to this House in future, to maintain decency, dignity and decorum so that the image and respect of the House is maintained and people will be receptive to see us, to hear us and also to follow our advice. That is why, sometimes, I have to intervene, I have to take strict decision. I have no ill-will against anybody or any party. I did my best to maintain the dignity of the House and I tried to accommodate all sides -- South, North, East, West and North-East. I might not have given them enough time that they wanted but each one of you have been given time, whether it is Zero Hour or Special Mentions or Question Hour or discussion and debates on the Bills. People want the House to Discuss, Debate and Decide -- 3Ds. This is my advice to all and also for the future because whoever is going to occupy the Chair will have to follow the precedents and go by the decisions taken earlier. See to it that the democratic principles and the standards set by our great people are followed. We are not enemies; we are rivals.. My wish is, Parliament functions well.

Primacy should be given to mother tongue. I would like to see in my lifetime that the Parliament, the Assemblies and also the school, college, university, the administration, everything should be carried in their respective State official languages. I also want to see the arguments in district courts, High Courts and Supreme Court is conducted in respective Indian languages and the judgements are also delivered in these languages. An honest beginning has to be made, and we all should have communication in our respective mother tongues. I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister, the Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and other leaders who have co-operated with me.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS; THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: Due to the complexity of all these fields and the rapid changes in them, there is a need for a talented, well trained and focused cadre in the country. A Central University is being set up through this Bill to create such a transport oriented cadre. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya is a great effort to give shape to the vision of the Prime Minister. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya will be run by the Ministry of Railways and will be coordinated by the National Policy on Education and Education related policies of the Ministry of Education. Let me tell you some points about Gati Shakti University. The National Institute of Rail and Transport ie NRTI was established in 2018. In this, many courses related to transport management, railway technology, rail system - were started. BBA, BTech, MBA - All these courses have been started. A total of 725 students have taken admission in this so far. The first batch is also graduated, its result is very good and everyone has got very good placements. Now by this bill NRTI will be converted into a central university. It will focus on five areas. First, transportation focused courses, second, application research, such as bridges, tunnels, material science, artificial intelligence for operational efficiency, how to use new energy, such as hydrogen - all these courses will be focused. Third is skill development. Along with BTech, PhD, there will be a lot of focus on skill development. Fourth, there is technological development. Its fifth objective is transport economy and infrastructure financing. The main campus of this university will be in Baroda, where the Institute of Railways is located and its other campuses will be developed at different places in the country.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022, seeks to establish Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya at Vadodara in Gujarat State amending the Central Universities Act of 2009, and the National Rail and Transportation Institute will be converted into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. The scope of this new university will extend

beyond railways and include transport sector as a whole. I have seen, earlier also, a lot of individual institutes have been converted either into Centre of Excellence or Central Universities for Gujarat only and not for other States, which is one of my observations. This University is additionally expected to provide necessary technology and research to the transport industry. It is only for Gujarat. I just want to ask one more question. What about the other parts of India, Is it going to be extended to all parts of the country and all the students can have the admission here? What is the mode of admission for them? How are the admissions going to take place? Whether the examinations are to be conducted across the country, like, CUET, NEET, this is not clarified in the Bill. The academicians also observed that converting a University into a Central University is just a matter of changing the name of the University not the purpose of making the transport system across the country as a research institute. It is necessary for this change in nomenclature to accompany with increased public funding and autonomy. But, in this Bill, the public funding is missing; the autonomy is only in the saying but not actually being done in the support of the Bill. We have seen this in many Central Universities, but the administration of these Universities is not up to the mark and there is a lot of criticism of University administration on ideological basis and in administrative matters also. A huge backlog of vacancies is there in the Central Universities. The unfilled faculty vacancies in Central Universities are a worrying factor. The experts have called for reforms to the Governing Councils of all Central Universities. This is a serious observation across the country. Not only this, what these reforms include is to cap on number of members in the Governing Council. Requirement of social representation and involvement of the alumni is another issue which they have raised. Carelessly planned Central Universities Entrance Test (CUET) is another concern. The irresponsible and student-unfriendly actions of the Union Government can be seen in CUET admissions. The UGC introduced CUET as a single gateway to admissions in the Central Universities, only three months prior to Entrance Test. This was during the time of students writing board examinations. While they were

writing board examinations, this CUET was announced. Students were in a serious confusion whether to write this examination or prepare for CUET. On account of that, a lot of students could not efficiently write their examination. as a result, they could not get a proper admission. The Parliamentary Standing Committee observed that the national overseas scholarship scheme provides financial assistance to 20 students every year for pursuing higher studies abroad, that is, for Ph.D. and post-doctoral studies. This number is declining year after year. The Parliamentary Standing Committee says that it should be enhanced to 30 at least. But, I request the Government to enhance it to at least 50. This decrease in trend is because there was no proper advertisement and every student from the rural areas was not able to apply online. There is an income ceiling of Rs. 6 lakhs per annum for Scheduled Tribe students while it is allowed in other cases for Rs. 8 lakhs, So, I request the Government to look into this and liberalise this economic ceiling at least from Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 8 lakhs so that students across the country can be able to apply. Provide all the infrastructure, give them proper teachers, then only the Central University will have proper guidance.

MS. DOLA SEN: It is good that another university is getting the status of a Central University. We are proud, but I have one clarification. Why should the Railway Department bear the cost? Why not the Education Ministry or UGC pay the same? However, there is a need to address some of the existing issues faced by various Central Universities. Most Central Universities across the country lack adequate infrastructure and face big fund shortages. Even the existing infrastructure in these universities is breaking down. The facilities provided to the residential students are also depleting day by day. The funding of many important Central Universities is curtailed. So far, we have come to know that this Government has allergy even for JNU, which is a great learning institution! The diversity of India's educational system is with institutions like these and many hundreds of premium educational institutions run by minority communities, including Christian Missionaries, but imparting education to all communities, must be

protected. I urge upon the Government to pay attention and provide adequate funds for betterment. I would, now, like to draw the Government's attention to the issue of vacancies in the Central Universities under the SC, ST and OBC categories. The intake of students under the reserved categories in the Central Universities is much lower than the mandated norms. I urge upon the Government to look into this also.

* * * * *
* * * * *

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

****Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.

**ERRATA TO THE SYNOPSIS OF
DEBATE DATED 5th AUGUST, 2022**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
143	8	Delete ' man ' after ' poor '
151	2	Add ' administring ' before ' 100 crore '
152	10 & 11	Replace ' cheap ' with ' affordable '
152	12	Read ' while ' for ' Where '
152	19	Add ' of Manoj ji ' after ' sentiments '