

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, July 23, 2025/ Sravana 1, 1947 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Concern over Recent Arrest of Indian Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy and Demand for Action to Release Them

SHRI VAIKO: Unfortunately, instances of arrest of Tamil fishermen and attack on them by the Sri Lankan Navy have increased year-after-year. Since the beginning of 2025, the arrests have totalled 150 fishermen with 20 boats confiscated. The situation has created significant financial hardship for fishing families, who often face substantial fines to secure their relatives' release. Recently, six Tamil fishermen were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 13th July, 2025, and their motorized fishing boat was seized. The Sri Lankan Navy continued its acts of infringement upon the traditional rights of our own fishermen in the Palk Bay, which is a challenge to the Union of India. The frequent arrests and seizure of boats have shattered the livelihood of many fishermen. I would urge upon the Union Government to take urgent steps to secure the early release of all the fishermen and their boats unconditionally. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive solution to prevent future arrests and protect the fishing community's rights. The recurring detentions have not only created immediate hardships but also threatened the long-term sustainability of fishing operations in the region. The Government should put diplomatic pressure on the Sri Lankan Government for giving compensation and solatium to the next of kin of those who were shot dead and boats damaged by the Sri Lankan Navy in the last ten years. They should hold a high-level discussion to find a permanent solution to this non-stop harassment by the Sri Lankan Navy. Katchatheevu Agreement should be reconsidered and that should be withdrawn by the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025 - as passed by Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): I move that the Bill to provide for the responsibilities, liabilities, rights and Immunities attached to carriers with respect to the carriage of goods by sea and for matters connected therewith or related thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

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

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I rise to participate in the discussion on the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025. I support this Bill. As was the case with the Bills of Lading Bill, this Bill also retains all the provisions of the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, that was enacted in 1925. As is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, this is to bring it in line with modern legislations in order to facilitate simplification. (*Speech unfinished.*)

Discussion not concluded.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.