

## RAJYA SABHA

### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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

### FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Hon'ble 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.

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

**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. MOHAMMED ABDULLA:** 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'ble Members across party lines. 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. I have a request. 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. 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.

**SHRI N. CHANDRASEGHARAN:** I feel a sense of profound gratitude and reflection. I am deeply honoured 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. Our transitioning to this new building symbolizes our nation's forward momentum, a testament to our progress and aspirations. 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. As I step down, I carry with me a wealth of memories and experiences.

**SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:** 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. 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. I thank everyone it is their cooperation that I could function effectively and espoused the cause of labourers and workers on many occasions. I am proud to say that I had the privilege of making speeches, raising important issues in this august House. I would like to thank my colleagues and everyone concerned with the proceedings of the House.

**SHRI VAIKO:** I am grateful to my party and my colleagues for this long journey. I was instrumental in unveiling the portrait of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar in the Central Hall. I was the only Member of Parliament, in the whole of India, who suffered detention under POTA and also suffered detention under MISA. I wrote my emotions and the happenings in

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\* Spoke in Tamil.

the form of a book. Parting is always sorrowful, painful and also memorable. I got the privilege of listening to the memorable speeches of many prominent leaders here. I can never forget the love and affection showered on me by Dr. John Brittas and Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha. I will always miss all the colleagues of mine in this House. When Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister and the Union Government was determined to undertake disinvestment of stocks of Neyveli Lignite Corporation. I told the Government that NLC is in my Tamil Nadu State. Twenty-five thousand workers have shed their sweat on the land of Tamil Nadu for it. This should not be privatised and the then Government agreed to it. 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 that they have to burn their midnight oil and do their homework perfectly well. In our human life, we can face defeat, disappointment and betrayals but we need not worry about that. I do say that I will never yield, or I will never compromise with my convictions, and I will raise my sword for the liberation of Tamil Eelam.

**SHRI P. WILSON:** I come from the land of Periyar; I come from the land of Perarignar Anna and Kalaignar. 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. The Constitution provides for three independent organs, namely, Judiciary, Legislature and Executive. But, we should redeem the encroached area. We have to assure the people that this House will rise for the common man, the downtrodden and the marginalized society and that is what I expect. 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 would only request that treat our State on par with other States even though it is ruled by a different Government.

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA):** Today, six of our colleagues are bidding farewell to us, out of whom P. Wilson ji is coming back again, he is welcome. On my behalf, on behalf of my party, I extend my best wishes to those of our colleagues who have given farewell speeches today. We know that this House runs in continuity, in a democracy, it is natural to have discussions and debates and we also know that the beauty of democracy is that we agree to disagree. We disagree, we agree with this, therefore, the House has been greatly enriched by the way our six colleagues have participated in the discussions on policies. This House will always remember their contribution. They have certainly discussed contemporary topics, discussed labour issues and also discussed a lot on legal issues. The debate has got a level due to the contribution of the social issues they have raised. I extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to them for this. Today we are bidding farewell to Vaiko ji who is amongst us. The country will always remember his life and his contribution. He has been a member of this House four times, a member of the Lok Sabha twice. He has also written many books. Today we all also came to know that he spent more than five years of his life in jail. He kept fighting for the society, for his citizens. Yesterday too he was raising the issue of fishermen very loudly in the House. I pray to God that he lives a long life and continues to serve the society in a good way.

**SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:** Being a Member of this House is really a prestige. 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 farewell. It is an honour to their contribution, by way of deliberation, to this august House. He has been in the Parliament for more than three decades. And, of course, all his speeches are remarkable, Mr. Shanmugam, a great trade union leader, who has done a lot to the trade union community, not only in Tamil Nadu, but the whole of India. through his deliberations, he eased my burden in this House. 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 spoke with great pride that he belongs to Tamil and Tamil language, glory and the ancientness. I appreciate him. We bid farewell and we wish a great future to them and good health.

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** 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. 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. That shows his efforts to the society, especially, to uplift the Tamil Nadu people and the whole India. 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. when Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss was the Health Minister, he took a lot of efforts; I appreciate him. We remember his contribution for the society. Mr. Vaiko. He is my leader. He is my brother. He is my elder brother. We always get inspiration in our movements. He also started his own party. All his speeches were fiery speeches. Mr. Shanmugam is a trade union leader. He is an elderly man. He is always guiding us. He has always been a champion for labour, and that was clearly reflected in his speech. Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla is a very nice man. I am the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances and he contributed a lot in that Committee. His friendship and dedication were evident. Mr. Wilson is a good lawyer. Whenever there are legal matters discussed here, his voice is always heard. He never misses anything, especially Zero Hour or Special Mention. We sincerely hope they will return to this House and contribute to this House.

**\*SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:** Six of the Hon'ble 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.

**SHRI SANJAY SINGH:** It is not always a pleasant experience to bid farewell to colleagues. I wish a bright future to my five colleagues - Vaiko Saheb, Abdulla ji, Chandrasegharan ji, Ambumani ji and Shanmugam ji - who are retiring today. We do not have a linguistic relationship with them. Their language is different, but we have a heart connection with them, a relationship of emotions, a relationship of pain, a relationship of slogans as we are in the opposition and that relationship will remain. We take great inspiration from Vaiko Saheb. Even at this age, the passion and courage with which he speaks is very inspiring for all of us. To all these brothers from Tamil Nadu, who are leaving today, I wish them a bright future from the bottom of my heart.

**SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:** I wish a bright future for the five colleagues who are leaving today. On behalf of the Congress Party, I wish these colleagues all the best, congratulate them and appreciate the fact that during their tenure they have expressed and

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\* Spoke in Bangla.

strongly raised the voice of the people, their pain, sorrow and all their suffering. I wish them a bright future.

**\*SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI:** It is a commendable tradition that through this House, we honour 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. I would like to express my special thanks to those who have introduced this tradition in the Parliament.

**DR. SASMIT PATRA:** On behalf of my party, I take this occasion to wish all the six Members, our colleagues 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. In terms of Shanmugamji, his leadership in the trade union has been truly inspiring. They have miles to go, miles to contribute, miles to achieve, and for all of us to be prouder of them going forward.

**SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:** I wish the best of luck to the colleagues who are leaving today and pray for their bright future. We got to learn a lot from these people. Humans never retire, those who are karmayogis, their work never ends, rather they go on to do more work. I wish that they remain healthy and happy.

**SHRI K. R. SURESH REDDY:** As we bid farewell to the retiring Members I wish them well. They have been a great source of inspiration, especially, for us. Mr. Vaiko stood alone like a rock but never deviated from the cause. I, once again, congratulate Mr. Wilsonji, who has made a comeback, and I am sure his contributions will keep guiding us in this august House.

**DR. JOHN BRITTAS:** Mr. Vaikoji described me as one of the three musketeers and he asked me that I need to speak my heart out. I was inspired by his presence and we are short of adjectives when we speak about Vaikoji. We can speak about him being resilient, tenacious and having an indomitable spirit. He stepped in this House half a century back, almost 47 years back. Shanmugamji is one of very few trade union leaders in this House. He was almost a leader for me and my party. He fought for the rights of the workers. We all would miss in a big way. Abdullahji 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. Thambiduraiji doesn't need to come here. Chandrasegharanji and Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss have contributed richly. Wilsonji is a legal luminary. Retiring is 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.

**SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA:** I wish all the best to five of our six retiring colleagues. Abdullah ji works with enthusiasm. Vaiko ji has put forth his views strongly on all issues here. He has always raised his views here in the interest of Tamils or fishermen. We have learnt a lot from them. I wish them all the best.

**SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:** Whenever someone retires, many things come to mind, like from tomorrow someone else will sit on this seat. But that other person will not be Vaiko. No amount of praise for Abdullah ji will be enough. I was with Shanmugam ji in the Labour Committee. Those moments in parliamentary democracy, when we can all talk. I have seen those things among all these members and have learnt a lot from them. We all are people of different ideologies, but some things connect us. Retirement from here is not a big deal. You will keep the public life energetic in the same way. I wish all of them all the best through you.

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\*Spoke in Telugu.

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** 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. 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. He has been, as all other colleagues have said, a voice for the downtrodden and a voice for the Tamil language and Tamil culture. Shanmugamji, has been a veteran in the trade union politics. Anbumani Ramadossji was a colleague of mine in the Government and I have had a chance to know him very closely. Abdullaji and Chandrasegharanji have been meaningful contributors to this House and to the overall, the progress and welfare of the nation. I, wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

**DR. V. SIVADASAN:** 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. Our leader, Shanmugamji is not only leader of the DMK, but also leader of the entire working-class community in our nation. Our dear friend Abdullaji has mentioned a lot of issues in his speech. Chandrasegharanji is a very close friend of mine. He has contributed a lot in this House. Anbumani Ramadossji and my dear friend, Wilsonji, a legal luminary. He will continue here in this House. I salute them, wishing all the success for these colleagues.

**PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:** One of our six colleagues, Wilson ji, is coming back. He has made a great contribution to the parliamentary system during his entire tenure. M. Shanmugam ji was, is and will remain a trade union leader. His contribution has been immense. We will always remember Vaikoji's voice in this House. No one retires in politics, if people keep coming to him, he will remain active. I wish that his leadership sends him here again for this responsibility.

**SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA:** On behalf of my party and the whole of Maharashtra, I would like to extend my best wishes to our honourable colleagues. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu both are extremely passionate about our culture, language, music and theatre. We welcome other cultures, but we ask the other cultures also to respect our own culture. Mr. Wilson, my friend and colleague, is already back. I congratulate him.

**SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:** I 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. To Mr. Vaiko and all other hon. Members from Tamil Nadu, who are retiring today, I wish all the best.

**SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:** I wish all the retiring Members all the best in life. I came to know about Shri Vaiko during my school days. In fact, he is a very popular politician even in Kerala. Shanmugam Sir is a very close associate of our trade union leaders. 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.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE):** Out of our six colleagues, five are leaving us and one of them is also returning. Vaiko ji has made a huge contribution to Tamil Nadu. I had very good relations with Vaiko ji. I had very good relations with DMK colleagues. All these colleagues have made a huge contribution and they have raised very good topics in this meeting. I heartily congratulate them.

## GOVERNMENT BILL

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

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI, continuing his unfinished speech dated 23.07.2025, said:** 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. India has a huge coastline of approximately 9,500 kilometres. We have witnessed that drugs are being smuggled into several States of India. Huge cache of drugs was confiscated in several parts of India. Drugs are freely available in Tamil Nadu near schools and colleges. The students, who are the future of India, are being brought under drug net. Maritime security has a huge security threat since time immemorial. The challenges of the coastline security are very complex. All the States manage their borders very well, even then there is an increased infiltration and smuggling of arms and ammunition and drugs through the sea route. This has its adverse impact on our economy and social fabric. There is a nexus between the organised smuggling gangs and terror outfits. This poses a serious challenge to our internal security. Many terror outfits use such channels to raise funds, which are further used in their terror activities. That is why I request the Government to look into this matter and see how the goods are being transported throughout the country, especially through the sea route. Because of trade India is going to become the third-largest economy in the world in due course of time. For trade, some rules and regulations have been made. Sea routes are dangerous. Many times our Indian ships are caught by pirates in many places. In the name of some other goods, smugglers are bringing narcotics. It is high time we took necessary action.

**SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:** The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025 is a landmark piece of legislation that holds immense potential to transform the maritime trade framework of our country. Advancements in technology, shifts in global trade routes, and the evolution of international conventions now demand that we modernize our laws. This Bill proposes several significant changes. Outdated terms are replaced with simpler, clearer language to ensure that the law is easier to interpret. The Bill empowers the Central Government to amend its provisions to align with evolving international conventions, ensuring our legal framework remains current. This Bill has a wide geographical and operational reach, applying to goods transported from Indian ports to destinations both domestic and international. It also simplifies legal language. It makes it easier to understand for shipping companies, traders and legal professionals. 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. It brings a lot of economic and strategic benefits. While the Bill represents a significant step forward, we believe there is room for further integration of technological considerations. The global maritime industry is rapidly digitizing and our legislation must keep pace with it. State-level consultation mechanism need to be brought in. We have to establish a consultation process with coastal States for future amendments. We also need to bring in incentive for modernisation of ports and shipping practices. A clause mandating a periodic review of the Act's provisions would ensure that the legislation remains up-to-date over time. 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.

*Discussion not concluded.*

**P. C. MODY,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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