

12.37½ hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES SECOND  
REPORT

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): I beg to present the Second Report of the Committee of Privileges.

12.38 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2)(a) of Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct four members from among themselves, to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2)(a) of Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves, to serve as members of the National Shipping Board subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.39 hrs.

RE. ADMISSIBILITY OF QUESTIONS

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI (Anantnag): You have, in your discretion, allowed certain points to be raised under rule 377. It is a very disturbing information which has

been given to my by the Parliament Secretariat that you have issued instructions to the effect that any question seeking information with regard to minorities, their service conditions in the Central Government Departments should not be allowed. This is very disturbing and this has come to my knowledge for the first time. I have been in this House for the last 11 years. Never before has this thing happened that even information about the service conditions of the minorities should not be given. I had tabled an Unstarred Q. No. 608 seeking information about the total staff of the Income Tax Department in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I had asked: how many are locals and how many are Muslims? The Secretariat says that it has been directed that it is not found possible to admit my question as above. Rule 41 clearly lays down how a question can be admitted: it is about admissibility of questions. Nowhere do I find that any Member of this House cannot ask a question pertaining to the service conditions of minorities in the country. I can understand, in your secular decision, you cannot give information about murder of Muslims, murder of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. But this information is very vital for us because I come from a State which, unfortunately, according to you, has a Muslim majority. I am sorry to make out this point. I have raised this point because invariably I have seen that, whenever I gave any question in regard to demolition of mosque, you did not allow me to raise the question.....

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think so.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: There was a communal trouble and some persons were killed. I have given another notice under rule 377 about a Muslim Sanskrit scholar dying in the Boat Club because he is on a hunger strike. You have not allowed that. This has confirmed my belief—and there is also this confirmation by your staff—that you will not allow questions with regard