

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 3(4)(j) of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the All India Council for Technical Education for a term of 3 years, subject to other provisions of the said Act".

The motion was adopted.

(ii) National Shipping Board

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 4(1) of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, 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, for a period upto 10.4.1999, subject to other provisions of the said Act"

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 4(1) of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, 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, for a period upto 10.4.1999, subject to other provisions of the said Act"

The motion was adopted

12.03 hrs.

CLARIFICATION ON PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my grave concern as well as objections. It is not my personal objection but the objection of the party too. We have undergone bitter experience during a few months' tenure about the hon. Prime Minister as to how he retracts from his statement. We have several such experiences but when the hon. Prime Minister makes statement on basic issues of National interests and makes objectionable policy statements while the Parliament is in Session and then

denies having made such statements, then we cannot remain mute spectator without commenting on it or raising objections against it. I have to mention two points clearly. The hon. Prime Minister during his recent visit to Kashmir Valley has only laid down foundation stones at those places which have no train services. During his visit to the valley he made a statement that he was ready to hold talks unconditionally. Next day, news quite contrary to it was published in the newspapers. It was very important statement in itself. There was an unopposed Motion of Parliament. Unconditional talks are to be held but with whom? Whether with Afghanese, Sudanese or other external forces already operating there? Next day he contradicted having made any such statement and something else appears in the Newspaper. In this regard, I feel my duty to tell you that my party wants peace in all the States and in the country and does not oppose it but strange news about Nagaland are pouring in. If the peace in the country is decided in United States and that too on some one's initiation, we cannot accept it. It is a very important issue which the hon. Prime Minister does not think it necessary to mention in the Parliament but such statements are being made. Whether the other hon. Members agree or disagree with it but I would like you to issue an order to the hon. Prime Minister to come to the House and give clarification on these two issues.

I would like to make one more request. Since the hon. Prime Minister is banking on the support of Congress Party and whether the hon. Prime Minister did something or did not do anything on the issue of Kashmir and Nagaland or made any statement, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say that the Congress Party should also clarify whether it supports or oppose the policy statement made by the hon. Prime Minister? I had to submit only these two points.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I basically agree with what Shri Jaswant Singhji has stated. The statements made during the last two-three months from abroad as well as from within the country are very objectionable and are ominous signs for the future of the country. I do not want to go in detail in this regard. But we have received information that some foreign country directs our country to adopt any particular policy or follow any direction and our country keeps silence, I think, there would be nothing more improper than this. When economic policies were being adopted in the past, I had stated that when we allowed intervention in our economic policies, we should be ready for intervention in our politics. But I had never thought about political intervention in such a clumsy manner. An emissary of a particular country was constantly allowed to visit Kashmir and talk to the local people. Not only this, the Department of External Affairs of that country