

damentalists in the whole world are mounting attacks on the freedom of expression of individuals. Nobody can freely express himself through writing a book, an article or through candid views or a drawing. I believe this is a fundamental question. Such things are being resorted to with a view to encroach upon this right. As regards 'Sehmat', some people are trying to stop it and they are encroaching upon fundamental rights of citizens. The whole country has candidly expressed its views against them. So, the Government should immediately take steps in this regard. Otherwise, it will be an attack on our views and fundamental rights.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): We should have Government's reactions on it. It is an important question. You should instruct Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, who is sitting here in this regard.

11.06 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

Explanatory Statement Giving Reasons For Immediate Legislation By The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993.

[Placed in library. See No. LT 4698/93]

11.06 1/2 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 9th December, 1993, agreed without any amendment to the National Council for Teacher Education Bill, 1993, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th May, 1993."
- (ii) "In accordance with the Provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1993, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th December, 1993."

11.07 hrs.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL

As passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Merchant Shipping