

13.44 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED AFFAIRS OF SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA

SHRI MALLIKARJUN (Medak): Madam Chairman, I am raising a matter about the victimisation of captain R. D. Kohli, Shipping Corporation of India. Luckily the hon. Minister is also available in the House; he will know it.

Captain R. D. Kohli who is number 2 in the Shipping Corporation of India as the executive director has also acted as managing director/chairman of SCI for over six months soon after after the former chairman/managing director Mr. Srivastava left SCI to take up a foreign assignment. Now captain Kohli has been superseded by five of his own juniors who are now placed above him on the board of SCI. These five officers are far junior to captain Kohli; knowledgeable he is rated as the most knowledgeable person in the field of merchant navy. This is a clear-cut victimisation of Capt. R. D. Kohli. Reference 21st July, 1978 *Economic Times*:

"The fact that some functional directors will also be superseded as a result of the appointment of five new executive directors on a higher salary scale would appear to have created heart-burning in the Shipping Corporation. There are signs of demoralisation at senior levels, particularly among persons who have put in long years of service and at least one functional director is understood to be contemplating resignation."

Shipping circles suggest that the political influence—I do not know whether the political influence refers to Mr. Chand Ram. The Minister of State in charge of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport or some other political influence.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): It has no foundation.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I do not know. Since you are present I am saying it. I do not know whether the political influence refers to you or some other political influence. Don't get agitated.

"Shipping circles suggest that the political influence appears to have played a major part in the selection of some candidates. Otherwise, the contribution of the senior-most person, Capt. Kohli, would not have been brushed aside."

Thus, apart from financial loss, Capt. Kohli will lose much of the image he has earned for himself in the shipping world by dint of sheer hard work and dedication.

The matter deserves a thorough investigation to prevent any future victimisation of loyal bureaucrats in the hands of politicians.

(ii) REPORTED ARREST OF EMPLOYEES OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF PUNJAB.

SHRI BHAGAT RAM (Phillaur): The police of Chandigarh Union Territory arrested 313 employees of Education Department of Punjab up to this date without any provocation from the employees side. The Ministerial Staff Association is peacefully agitating since long for their quite genuine demands such as additional staff in proportion to the increased work load, release of selection grade, recall of deputationists, etc. On 21st July while the employees were staging dharna peacefully before the resi-