

genuineness or otherwise of the documents produced by Dr. Sinha on the 12th June, 1952. The Committee will go, not only into the limited question of genuineness or otherwise of the documents produced, but also of allied questions including the question of any breach of privilege and other incidental matters as also the question of standards expected of a member of this House

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT *re.* MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table of the House a Supplementary Statement showing the meetings of the Standing Committees attached to various Ministries and subjects discussed at such meetings during the period from 1st February to 31st March, 1952. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 39.]

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): Arising out of this Sir, may we know the position about the formation of the Standing Committees? You will remember that you stated before the House that an opportunity would be given to Members and that they would be consulted before a final decision was taken. We are seeing newspaper reports to the contrary. May we know what the position exactly is?

Mr. Speaker: That question does not, strictly speaking, arise on this occasion. If and when a motion comes, or if it does not come ultimately, I think the question can be raised at that time.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: If it does not come?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can wait for some time and then put questions. I believe there is also a question tabled by a certain hon. Member. I am told that a question about the intention in respect of Standing Committees was put and the hon. the Prime Minister said that the intention was to abolish them. That is the position.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): I think the Prime Minister stated the other day that it was for the House eventually to decide it.

Mr. Speaker: The House can take such steps as it can. There will be many occasions. It will be sitting the whole of next month.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): Sir, you have been pleased to refer a case just now to the Privileges Committee. The matter has been raised by one hon. Member who is also a Member of the Privileges Committee. Now, what will be the procedure? I would like to know whether he will take part in the discussions and also have a right to vote in the Committee when the matter is discussed.

Mr. Speaker: That will be a question which will primarily be decided by the Privileges Committee itself as to what procedure it will follow. The hon. Member himself will consider the matter as to how far he should participate, but whether as a Member of the Committee or as a person raising particular points, I think, he will certainly be entitled to be heard. But we are not concerned with that here. We are concerned with matters about privileges. Here I may again remind the House what I once said that it is not a party question at all, nor is it purely a personal question. Members are sitting there as Members of this House without carrying any labels or having any preconceived notions. Their sole consideration being the dignity and the privilege of the House and its Members. Those who are in Government today might tomorrow or after some time be in the Opposition, and the Opposition might be in the Government. Therefore, our chief objective is to create and set proper precedents which will be a guide for all times, irrespective of any party or personal considerations. And I believe the Privileges Committee will function always in that manner. Still, if any question arises, so far as the point raised by the hon. Member is concerned, the Privileges Committee is entitled to make a reference to the Speaker. The Committee is functioning under the directions of the Speaker. That does not mean that the Speaker interferes in their day-to-day work or deliberations. Only when they refer a point for decision then that point is decided by the Speaker.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, twenty-five Members