

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

be reconstituted with effect from the 1st March, 1961."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (a) of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, framed under the said Act, the Members of Lok Sabha 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 to be reconstituted with effect from the 1st March, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Now, we shall take up to the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Bill.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Before you proceed with that Bill, may I make a submission? During the Question Hour, you were pleased to say that you had admitted a no-day-yet-named-motion on shortage of coal. My submission is that unless and until the discussion is held either tomorrow or early next week, the purpose of the discussion will not be served, because acute shortage is occurring all over the country, with regard to coal.

Mr. Speaker: Let the statement be made tomorrow. Then, we shall consider whether it is necessary to have a further discussion on that matter as early as possible. I have no objection; I am not shutting it out; but let us wait and see what that statement is going to be. If hon. Members are not satisfied, and they want to have a discussion, we shall consider.

12.04 hrs.

TWO-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES (ABOLITION) BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Bill.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Before this Bill is taken up, may I make a submission? Very little time has been fixed for this Bill. Only three hours have been fixed for this by Government, but the Business Advisory Committee has not considered it yet.

Mr. Speaker: Government have suggested three hours.

An Hon. Member: Let it be there for the whole day.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Let us carry on with this for the whole of the day, but it must be completed today.

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the abolition of two-member parliamentary and assembly constituencies and for the creation of single-member constituencies in their place, be taken into consideration."

The House is aware that this matter has been engaging the attention of Government for quite some time. In fact, ever since the extension of the period for reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes seats, it has been the subject of careful consideration as to whether this reservation should be continued on the basis of double-member constituencies or on the basis of single-member constituencies. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes members have been pleading for a long time that the system which would give reservation in their favour and give the best possible effect is