

[Shri Muhammed Elias]

majority of seamen, or if it is not so, then all the registered Unions must be recognised by Government. Otherwise, no dispute can be settled amicably. Everywhere, we are seeing rival Unions. We have already written to the Ministry of Transport in this regard. In the shipping offices of Calcutta, everyday in the name of Unions, hooliganism is indulged in. As soon as the seamen register their name and get wages inside the office, they are being attacked by *goondas* and money is taken away from them in the name of subscription or donation for Union.

13.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the chair]

Therefore, my suggestion is that all registered Unions must be recognised or it must be decided by ballot that which Union will be recognised by Government. I find that in the Indian maritime Board and in the Labour Board of Indian Seamen, there is no representation given to members. The seamen are largely members of the Indian Seamen's Federation; but there is no representatives in the Maritime Board or the Labour Board. The majority of Indian seamen, about 80 per cent. of them are members of the Indian Seamen's Federation; but, that Union has not been given any opportunity to send its representative to the Indian Maritime Board or in the Labour Board. Provision must be made in this Bill with regard to the recognition of unions of seamen.

There are elaborate clauses with regard to the National Welfare Board for seafarers. I welcome those clauses. But, still, I want to say that the representatives of seamen must be taken on the Welfare Board also.

I do not want to mention many things. The Bill is a massive one with an enormous number of clauses which require careful thought. I hope this Bill will be the opening of a new era for the building of our shipping indus-

try in this country. Let the Bill be also a guarantee to the Indian seamen of their living and working conditions for they play a very important part in our shipping industry.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I may announce to the House that there were certain adjournment motions about the ammunition packages that were being unloaded at Pathankot, that there were certain explosions and there have been deaths as well. The Defence Minister will make a statement in that connection at 5 o'clock.

MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL—contd.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Shastriji was able to give a shape to Indian shipping and now he is giving shape to Merchant shipping.....

Shri Mohiuddin (Secunderabad): Is a Member of the Joint Committee allowed to speak?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have permitted him.

Shri Raghunath Singh: I asked for permission.

I call this a historical day because nearly 2,400 years ago, Chanakya, realising the importance of shipping activity, framed some basic principles of law which will remain a guide to all framers of shipping law of the future. On this day, no one will forget to acknowledge the patriotic efforts of Walchand Hirachand, the father of Indian shipping. I also thank another gentleman, Shri S. N. Haji, a member of this House and Round Table Conference, who fought on the very floor of this House and saved Indian shipping when Lord Inchcape wanted to strangle the infant Indian shipping. In the true sense, he was the pioneer of coastal shipping in India.