

during the month preceding the 19th March, 1958. Out of these complaints, only two were from the occupants of the unfortunate shops gutted on the 20th instant. These two complaints related to the blowing off of the meter board and aerial fuses. No defects in the Board's installations on these premises were reported by the members of the line-staff who attended to the complaints. As there were no complaints from any other shop out of the block of 36 shops that were gutted, the inference is inevitable that neither the consumers' nor the Board's installations there were faulty.

The Electrical Inspector, Delhi Administration, who inspected the site at about 2.30 P.M. on the 20th March, 1958, has reported that the fire broke out when all the shops were closed, due to polling for the Municipal Corporation, and no light or fan was presumably in use. Under these circumstances, he concludes that the chances of fire occurring due to short-circuiting were very remote.

According to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, Delhi, the fire started in shop No. 5608 and subsequently spread to the adjoining shops and also the shops across the lanes. Since this shop was completely gutted and filled with debris due to collapse of the top floor, it has not been possible for him to establish the cause of the fire in spite of a thorough investigation. The Fire Officer has, however, stated that according to an eye witness the fire was noticed in an electrical cable of one of the shops. This according to the Fire Officer does not establish that the Cable started burning due to a short circuit. The Cable could have caught fire from some article already aflame in the shop. It has thus not been possible to establish the precise cause of the fire.

TRADE AND MERCHANDISE MARKS BILL

Shri Morarji Desai: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration and better protection of trade marks and for the preservation of the use of fraudulent marks on merchandise.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration and better protection of trade marks and for the preservation of the use of fraudulent marks on merchandise."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Morarji Desai: I introduce the Bill.

MINES AND MINERALS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, for the purpose of exempting mining leases granted before the 25th day of October, 1949, in respect of coal from certain provisions of that Act in view of the importance of such leases in the context of coal production generally.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, for the purpose of exempting mining leases granted before the 25th day of October, 1949, in respect of coal from certain provisions of that Act in view of the importance of such leases in the context of coal production generally."

The motion was adopted.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I introduce the Bill