

Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st February, 1979."

The motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I introduce† the Bill.

STATEMENT RE. INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 1979.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) REPORTED MALTREATMENT OF A LAWYER BY PONDICHERRY POLICE

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gopal. But no name.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): The whole subject matter concerns that gentleman and without name it is im-

possible. Newspaper reports have appeared already.

In the issue of 'Hindu' dated 14-2-1979, maltreatment of a lawyer, Shri K. Ramaswamy, in the police station in the Union Territory of Pondicherry has been reported. Shri Ramaswamy has alleged that he was kept in the police station in Pondicherry for several days without any record and was tortured and beaten up. He has submitted an application to the I. G. of Police. In that he has said that his wife Shrimati Saraswati was stripped at the police station. It has been reported that he was taken to the police station on 16 January 1979 and detained there till 23 January 1979. His presence in the police station was not recorded until the night of 23 January. I request that a thorough enquiry should be made of this incident and those found guilty should be dealt with according to law.

It has also been reported that a police spokesman denied Mr. Ramaswamy's allegation as baseless and fictitious. A responsible police officer should not have made this observation. I wish they had said that the matter would be enquired into.

To add to his misery, Shri Ramaswamy has been charged that he attacked a constable and escaped. A case of attempt to murder of a policeman was registered against Shri Ramaswamy. Nobody with any sense would believe that a person who has been taken to a police station would try to commit murder of a policeman in the police station itself.

I therefore demand that the matter should be taken up by the CBI as it is rightly felt that truth would not come out if the matter is left to the police in the Union Territory as they themselves are involved in the matter.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 22-2-79.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.