

accidents leading to deaths of any miners, those reports may be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Nanda: We are doing it.

Mr. Speaker: Regarding the other matters which are not very serious, if any hon. Member wants any information and applies to the Ministry, the Ministry will kindly supply the information. With regard to those reports that are placed on the Table of the House, if they are serious, the House may have an opportunity from time to time to discuss, if any general principles are involved.

So far as the adjournment motions are concerned, I am not allowing them. The calling attention notice will stand over for three or four days.

Shri Nanda: In four days, we will be ready with the information.

Mr. Speaker: I will fix a date.

12.11 hrs.

ALLEGED ARREST OF ADIVASI WORKERS IN ROURKELA

Mr. Speaker: There is another adjournment motion by Shri Chintamani Panigrahi. It says:

"The need to discuss the serious situation arising out of recent large scale arrests of Adivasi workers employed in Rourkela Steel Factory."

Is there any discrimination made against these Adivasi workers as against other workers?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): There is no discrimination at all. So far as the particular thing raised by the hon. Member is concerned, I have been trying to get in touch with Rourkela. I have learnt of this adjournment motion only today and I have not been able to get in touch. I will ascertain the information and supply it if the House so desires, as soon as information is available.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi (Puri): More than 3,000 adivasi workers had **been now retrenched in Rourkela.** The promise was given to them that once their land has been taken, they would be given unskilled jobs in the steel factory. This was discussed on the floor of this House and the hon. Minister was pleased to tell us that if the displaced Adivasi workers are not provided with lands so far, they will be provided with unskilled jobs at least in the Rourkela steel factory. Now, many of those who were provided with unskilled jobs have been retrenched now. Neither they have been provided with land nor they have been provided with jobs. When they went and squatted for ventilating their grievances to the General Manager, more than 200 adivasi workers are arrested. You know how the Adivasi react if they are arrested.

I will request the hon. Minister to go to the spot, enquire into this matter and see that the Adivasi workers are provided with jobs in the near future and they are not arrested like this. That is my submission.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I share the sympathy for the Adivasis who are working there or elsewhere and I would like to do the maximum that is possible for the adivasis. But what happened in the beginning was that many of these displaced persons and others preferred to undertake work with the contractors, because the contractors were offering higher wages, particularly contractors who were doing the construction work. In the initial stages, when there were possibilities of employing the people by the plant authorities, they were reluctant to come forward and were attracted by higher wages offered by the contractors. Now the construction work is coming to an end. In the meantime there are not enough jobs with the steel works to absorb all the people.

Therefore, whatever retrenchment benefits are due to retrenched workers who are adivasis or non-adivasis, it is the responsibility of the

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

contractors and the State Government is ensuring that the contractors discharge their responsibility. This is a general long range question.

About this particular thing regarding the arrests of adivasis, as I have already stated, I have not got any information. I will certainly find out what has actually happened and if the House so desires, I will place that information before the House.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: What about the land not being provided to them? They were displaced from the land when the steel factory was constructed. The State Government has not yet supplied land to the adivasis. Will the hon. Minister request the State Government to expedite that work also?

Sardar Swaran Singh: All people whose land has been acquired are paid full price for the land and also 15 per cent extra by way of solatium. Besides that, the State Government have spent fairly large sums of money to rehabilitate these persons. Over and above the price of the land and the solatium, the State Government have spent considerable sums of money in reclaiming some lands in trying to rehabilitate these workers. Whereas we should have sympathy with these people whose lands and properties are acquired, we should also keep this in mind that after paying the full amount for the property that has been acquired, and after paying solatium as provided by law, certain rehabilitation steps are also taken by the State Governments. I think all that should be done or could be done is being done. In this case, there is a limit up to which we can go.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister, it is not necessary to give consent to this adjournment motion. But the Minister will kindly make enquiries about the arrest and inform the House as early as possible.

12.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

WAGONS FOR MOVEMENT OF RICE IN
BILASPUR

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan (Bhopal): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The situation arising out of the the outstanding indents for 40,000 wagons for the movement of rice in the Bilaspur region in Madhya Pradesh.”

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): I may apprise the House that the indents outstanding for movement of rice and paddy at stations in Bilaspur Distt. in Madhya Pradesh are about 33,000 wagons and not 40,000 wagons. This, however, does not reflect the correct position about the demand and supply of wagons.

The loading of rice and paddy from Bilaspur Distt. during the period from November 1960 to March 1961 was as follows:—

November 1960—850 wagons.
December 1960—1309 wagons.
January 1961—2782 wagons.
February 1961—1829 wagons.
March 1961—2168 wagons.

The harvest this year has been similar to the harvest last year. The total movement of rice and paddy out of Bilaspur region during the season 1959-60 was of the order of about 4 lakh tons. During the season 1960-61 about 2 lakh tons have already been moved on Central Government and trade account. A balance of 2 lakh tons is still to be lifted from Bilaspur