

current session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 20th April, 1959:—

- 1 The Appropriation (No 2) Bill, 1959
2. The Finance Bill, 1959
3. The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

12-14½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

FOURTEENTH REPORT

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukabad)
Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

I also lay on the Table a copy of the statement showing the names of Members who have been absent for 15 days or more continuously from the 9th February to the 31st March, 1959 during the Seventh Session.

12-14½ hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ACCIDENT IN DURGAPUR STEEL PROJECT

Shri Subodh Hansda (Midnapur—Reserved-Sch. Tribes). Sir, under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The accident in Durgapur Steel Project resulting in the death of five persons and injuries to seven others."

102(AI) L.S.D.—4.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Sir, I am sorry to inform the House that on the morning of the 27th April, 1959 an unfortunate accident took place at the construction site of the Durgapur Steel Plant. According to the information received from Durgapur, the accident took place at about 7.45 A.M. last Monday. While some workmen of the contractor were fixing roof trusses in the heavy forging bay of the blooming mills of the plant under construction, three of the trusses under erection at the north end of the bay collapsed, resulting in the death of two workmen immediately and injury to several others. One workman died on the way to hospital and four were admitted to the project hospital in the steel township, of whom two died subsequently. Four serious injury cases were sent to Burdwan district hospital for treatment, of whom one has died. Thus the total number of deaths is six. All five serious injury cases were receiving treatment in Durgapur and Burdwan hospitals, of whom one has since been discharged. The others are, however, reported to be out of danger. Three of the workmen had minor injuries and were given out-door treatment only.

Besides, the enquiries which are being conducted by ISCON, the Project authorities have appointed a committee of enquiry to go into the facts of the accident and the Committee is going into the matter. The report of the Committee is expected to be available in the course of this week. It appears that while three senior engineers of the contractors were supervising generally at site and were at some distance from the scene of accident, they were not on the spot of the accident at the time the accident took place. I am informed that all necessary erection equipment including a mobile crane was available for the erection work, but no over-head cranes were necessary for this work.