

ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT—8 FEBRUARY 1960

Lok Sabha	—	Second Lok Sabha
Session	—	First Session of the Year
President of India	—	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Vice-President of India	—	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
Prime Minister of India	—	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
Speaker, Lok Sabha	—	Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,

Once again, it is my privilege to welcome you to your labours in a new session of Parliament.

In the year we leave behind, my Government and our people had been engaged, more than ever before, in their endeavours in nation-building. The needs and achievements in economic and social advance are understood by our people, in town and village, in increasing measure, as basic and vital to the improvement of their conditions and standards of living and as important to their daily lives.

The incursions into parts of the territory of the Union of India, across our traditional and well understood borders, by elements of Chinese forces have, however, deeply distressed our people and evoked legitimate and widespread resentment. They impose a greater strain on our resources and our nation-building endeavours. We regret and deplore these developments on our border. They have resulted from the disregard by China of the application of the principles, which it had been mutually agreed between us, should govern our relations. My Government have taken prompt and calculated measures, both defensive and diplomatic to meet the threat to our sovereignty.

My Government particularly deplore the unilateral use of force by our neighbour on our common frontier, where no military units of the Union were functioning. This is a breach of faith; but we may not lose faith in the principles which we regard as basic in the relations between nations.

Members of Parliament, You have been kept informed by the release, from time to time, of correspondence between my Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of China, of the respective positions of our two countries in

this matter. My Government have made it clear, beyond doubt, that they seek a peaceful approach in the settlement of outstanding matters. They have also stated and reiterated, equally clearly, that they will not accept the course, or the results of unilateral action or decisions, taken by China. My Government, therefore, pursues a policy both of a peaceful approach, by negotiation under appropriate conditions, and of being determined and ready to defend our country.

This and the weight of world public opinion which is adverse to her action should, we hope, persuade China sooner than later to come to agreements in regard to our common frontiers which for long have been well established by treaties, custom and usage. Thus, and thus alone, can friendly relations with our great neighbour which my Government and our people desire, become a reality and endure for our common good. The actions taken and the policy pursued by my Government, it may be hoped, will be adequate to convince China of both our policy and our determination.

Members of Parliament, I have referred at some length to the situation that has developed on our border and to the consequences and problems thereof. I need hardly say that in doing so I have reiterated the sentiments of our entire country and our people and their determination to defend our territory. Defence, however, is effective only with national unity and strength. Our economic and industrial advance, the gearing of our production and our plans to greater endeavour and larger and speedier results, which will enable the country to make available to itself the means and the resources for modern defence and, at the same time, help the nation become strong and disciplined, can alone render her secure.

Distressing as these Sino-Indian border developments have been, we may not, and we do not, relax our efforts for the planned development of our economy and our country. In point of fact, because of this situation, my Government are taking steps to speed up further, organise and streamline our economic development.

The work on the preparation of the frame and the outline of the Third Five Year Plan with its longer perspective and higher targets is making good progress. The objective of the Third Five Year Plan is to seek almost to double the national income, taking 1950-51 as the basic level, and to pay much greater attention to agricultural production and to our food requirements, to heavy machine building and to the development of basic resources such as steel, fuel and power. Small-scale and rural industries, the speedier and healthy development of our rural economy and the healthy relationship between rural areas and industrial centres are among the main aims of the Plan.

The Third Five Year Plan represents a critical period in our national development. It aims at making our economy more self-reliant and capable of increasing and generating resources for its further and larger development.

It calls for sustained efforts and endurance of our people. Thus, our Third Plan will keep well in view, both its own developmental aspects as well as the requirements and the perspective of the Fourth Plan to follow. While we are grateful for external aid and loans, as necessary in the present stage of our development, we should, in our own interests, in consideration of those who have been our good and generous friends, and the needs of the underdeveloped areas of the world, strive to shed our dependence.

The country's foreign exchange position while it shows no deterioration, remains more or less unchanged. My Government therefore, pursue a policy to create a more favourable balance of trade and to earn more foreign exchange by strict control over imports and efforts to increase exports. It will be the endeavour of my Government to conserve our foreign resources and add to the volume of our invisible exports in which there still exists unutilised a vast and increasing field.

Our industrial production shows a pronounced upward trend, and for the first ten months of the year, an increase of over ten points has been recorded, from 138 to 149.3, over the last year's figures. This is an all-round increase to which all industries have contributed, but special mention may be made of the rise in the output of metallurgical industries. The three steel plants at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur have gone into production in 1959. There has been a fifty per cent, increase in the production of pig iron and a somewhat lower, though considerable, increase in the output of steel.

The iron and steel output would help advance the Heavy Machine building projects. My Government have already sanctioned a number of machine building and other projects for the Third Five Year Plan. These include the doubling of the Heavy Machinery Project at Ranchi and the steel production at Bhilai, the expansion of the Heavy Electrical Project at Bhopal, a number of new projects for power, fertiliser plants and Heavy Machine Tools.

The chemical industry has also witnessed appreciable advance. An Intermediate Plant to provide the basic raw materials for the manufacture of dye stuffs, drugs, explosives and plastics is being established.

The endeavours of our Railway organisation to attain self-sufficiency in regard to essential equipment have enabled it not only to meet all the requirements of steam locomotives, coaches, wagons, signalling and lighting equipment, but also to yield a surplus for export.

Mining activities in the public sector have increased considerably. The Geological Survey of India has been expanded to undertake search and intensive investigation in virgin areas in minerals essential to our expanding economy.

A statutory Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been established. The search for and discovery of oil in different parts of the country continues. Sixty oil wells have been drilled in Nahorkatiya for the production of crude oil required for the two State-owned refineries in Assam and Bihar and the construction of the refinery in Assam is in progress.

My Government have entered into an agreement with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the supply of equipment for the construction of the refinery at Barauni in Bihar.

My Government are alive to the requirement of scientists, technicians and technologists for our expanding economy. Measures are being taken to step up progressively the output in these cadres and to provide increasingly better career opportunities and a higher status for the old and new entrants. In our developing economy, there are ever growing opportunities of service in these fields, which are so important to our planned development on modern lines.

Our Atomic Energy organisation has recorded commendable progress. Increased production of isotopes, the fabrication of fuel elements, the Uranium Metal Plant at Trombay, the extraction of plutonium from the used fuel elements and the mining of uranium are among the achievements of this organisation. The preliminary work for the setting up of the first Nuclear Power Station is well in hand. The uranium which is sought to be mined in Bihar will supply sufficient raw material to feed the first Nuclear Power Station.

An additional tonnage, of one lakh gross, was added to the Indian Merchant Fleet. A National Shipping Board and a statutory non-lapsing Shipping Development Fund have been established. Indian shipping, which has suffered many handicaps in the pre-Independence period, will continue to receive all possible assistance in its modernisation and development. My Government is fully aware of the place of Merchant Navy in our economy, in the conservation and earning of foreign exchange and in its auxiliary and reserve roles in the defence of our long sea coast.

The Code of Discipline evolved in 1958 has improved the climate of industrial relations in the country and created more favourable conditions for the maintenance of industrial peace and increase of efficiency. Compared to the previous year, there has been an appreciable reduction in the loss of man days of work in 1959.

The Employees State Insurance Scheme has been extended to further areas and now covers about fourteen and a half lakhs of factory workers, while medical care under the Scheme has been extended to about twelve lakhs of members of the workers' families.

In the field of National Education, the teaching of science subjects, expansion of girls' education and the training of women teachers have made good progress and are gathering momentum. All eligible college students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are receiving stipends.

Advance in the production of food is vital to the sustenance, expansion and strength of our economy. Foodgrains production attained a record level of 73.5 million tons and cash crops also recorded satisfactory yields resulting in the overall increase in the Index of Agricultural Production to 131.0, an increase of 14.3 per cent over the previous record in 1957-58. We cannot, however, feel satisfied, much less complacent, about the food production in our country. Each year, we are obliged to import considerable quantities of foodgrains for consumption and for reserve stocks, causing great stress on our slender foreign exchange resources and rendering our economy far from self-reliant. Our production per acre falls short of the yields in many of the countries of Asia, Europe or America. My Government are giving greater attention to the increased production of fertilisers and to the supply of good seeds. It is, however, by better cultivation, avoidance of waste through pests, better animal husbandry, the advance of cooperation both in production and in marketing, and by the determination of the people to be self-reliant, that individual and national prosperity can be achieved.

To enable greater participation in the conduct of affairs and the development of our economy by the people of the country as a whole, my Government have encouraged schemes of devolution of authority to statutory institutions of the people at the basic level of our great and growing democracy. This scheme of 'Panchayati Raj' has already been inaugurated in Rajasthan and in Andhra Pradesh and is making progress in other States. To make the working of the 'Panchayati Raj' efficient, a comprehensive programme of training non-officials of all categories has been undertaken.

Defence production has made satisfactory progress. Plans of expansion in this field, both of production and of capacity, are under consideration and will be progressively implemented.

My Government have taken steps to expand the National Cadet Corps in the coming year and to form units of nursing and auxiliary services for girls. The Territorial Army and the Lok Sahayak Sena will also be expanded in numbers, and certain changes introduced in regard to their training and reserve liabilities.

A number of measures for the improvement of the conditions of service in the various categories in the Armed Forces have been implemented.

The resettlement of ex-servicemen and the utilisation of the reservoir of disciplined manpower that they provide is continually engaging the attention of my Government. Schemes of technical and vocational training

and guidance and of self-help by co-operatives are promoted. Welfare and resettlement of ex-servicemen are integral to defence considerations and provide a necessary incentive and a legitimate measure of hope and security for those who serve the Armed Forces.

Members of Parliament are aware that in the Proclamation issued in relation to the State of Kerala on the 31st of July, 1959, which was approved by Resolutions passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, it was provided that the general election for constituting a new Legislative Assembly for that State shall be held as soon as possible. The general election was accordingly held and polling took place in the entire State on February 1, the number of voters exercising their franchise being one of the highest recorded in any election. The Proclamation will be revoked and the normal constitutional machinery restored in the State shortly.

Parliament decided during the last session to extend the safeguards provided in the Constitution for the reservation of seats for members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures by a further period of ten years and the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Act embodying this decision has received my assent. Government also propose to appoint a Commission as required under Article 339 of the Constitution to examine and report on the administration of the Scheduled Areas and the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the States.

Sixty-three Bills were passed by Parliament in 1959. Fifteen Bills are pending before you. My Government intend to introduce a number of legislative proposals both by way of Bills and amendments. Such proposals will include:

- The Atomic Energy Bill;
- The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill;
- The Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporation Bill;
- The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill;
- The Indian Patents and Designs Bill;
- The Employees' Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill;
- The Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Bill;
- The Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill;
- The Central Maternity Benefit Bill;
- The Indian Sale of Goods (Amendment) Bill;
- The Religious Trusts Bill;
- The Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Bill; and
- The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill.

My Government also propose to introduce a Bill for the reorganisation of the present Bombay* State and to reconstitute it as two separate States.

My Government have already announced their decisions on the major recommendations of the Pay Commission. The other recommendations are under their active consideration. The additional commitments on account of the pay, allowances and pensionary charges alone are estimated to be about thirty-one crores per annum, in respect of the Services directly covered by the Jagannadha Das Commission Enquiry.

A statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the financial year 1960-61 will be laid before you.

My Government note with gratification the relaxation in world tensions and the prospect of high level meetings of the Heads of Governments for the promotion of World Disarmament and Peace. The initiative of great statesmen, notably the President of the United States of America and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, deserve the attention and appreciation of our country and people. My Government, while welcoming the continuance of the voluntary unilateral suspension of nuclear test explosions and the increasing endeavours of both the United States of America and the Soviet Union to solve this problem, reiterate their view that the testing of weapons of mass destruction should be abandoned.

We welcome these trends and the direct contacts between the leaders of the Great Powers and wish success in their efforts, which we feel assured are inspired with sincere desire to halt the armaments race and for world peace.

We also welcome wholeheartedly, in the midst of the awesome growth of armaments and the fear and passions from which they spring and on which they rest, the newer development of the projection of the picture of a warless world, wherein nations will not only lay down their arms but also reject war as a method of settling disputes and devote their energies and resources to building a peaceful world.

Devoted as my Government and people are to world peace and co-operation, they are determined to adhere to a peaceful approach and the policy of non-alignment, to both of which our country stands fully committed by history and outlook, faith and conduct, and by the overwhelming desires and convictions of our people. Parliament has expressly endorsed this policy on several occasions.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of visiting Cambodia, the Republic of Vietnam, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Laos and Ceylon** and to receive the generous welcome and joyous greetings of their Governments and peoples.

* Now known as Mumbai.

** Now known as Sri Lanka.

I was happy to welcome to our Capital the President of the United States of America, and later the President of the Soviet Union, who in their persons represent not only the greatness and power of their countries but also the fervent desires of their peoples for world peace. We are looking forward to the visit of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr. Khrushchev, another messenger of peace in the world today. The goodwill and moral support of this country will be behind the efforts of these two great countries, and those of others, in full measure in their search for disarmament and peace.

My Government were glad to welcome the Prime Ministers of Afghanistan, Australia, Cambodia, Ghana, Nepal and Sweden. We look forward to the visits of President Nasser of the United Arab Republic, His Majesty the King of Morocco and the Prime Minister of Finland.

The Vice-President visited the Philippines, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland, receiving cordial welcome from the Governments and the people there.

My Prime Minister visited Afghanistan, Iran and Nepal, and was welcomed with an abundance of goodwill.

The exchange of visits of my Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Nepal has further strengthened the bonds of affinity and friendship and proclaimed the desire and determination for co-operation in the interests of our two countries.

Our relations with Commonwealth countries and our participation at various Commonwealth gatherings have served to create greater understanding of our internal and external policies and, in an appreciable measure, served also to assist our economic development.

I am happy to note that further agreements have been reached with Pakistan in regard to our boundary disputes. It is the hope of my Government that these arrangements with Pakistan will lead to a successful delimitation of our boundaries along our frontiers with our neighbour with whom we have always desired to remain in friendly relations.

Progress has also been made in regard to the settlement of financial issues pending between India and Pakistan, and it is hoped that the long-standing Canal Waters dispute will be settled soon. I welcome these developments which bring promise of closer relations between our two countries.

The Government and the people of India were deeply grieved and shocked to learn of the assassination of the Prime Minister of Ceylon*, the late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, on September 25, 1959. He was a great friend of India and visited us several times. Our heartfelt sympathies went out to the Government and people of Ceylon*, as well as to Mrs. Bandaranaike and her children.

* Now known as Sri Lanka.

In the United Nations, our delegation reflected the deep feelings of our people in regard to the problem of the liberation of colonial countries and, more particularly, in regard to Algeria, in the sustained struggle of the Algerian people for their national independence.

We welcome the independence of the Cameroons, till recently under French administration. We look forward to the emergence to nationhood in the coming years of several other colonial areas in Africa.

The policy of apartheid, pursued by the Government of the Union of South Africa, inflicts untold suffering and indignity on the majority of the people who are subjects of that Government. These include large numbers of people of Indian origin. This policy constitutes a violation of Human Rights under the Charter of the United Nations, and it has again met with overwhelming disapproval by the United Nations in the last session of the General Assembly.

My Government have decided to exchange diplomatic representatives with Cuba, Venezuela and Colombia in South America and Guinea in Africa.

Members of Parliament, I have placed before you the main events and achievements and our concerns of the past year. I have also projected before you some of the great tasks and burdens that are in front of us. They must engage your dedicated attention. Your understanding and co-operation, in regard to problems of our economic planning, the defence of our country and our contribution to world peace, are required by our Government and people in increasing measure. Thus will Parliament fulfil its historic role in our Constitution.

We have celebrated this year the tenth anniversary of our young Republic. Our Constitution which we gave unto ourselves, wherein all power and authority are based upon and spring from the people, has endured and grown in strength. The policies and achievements of my Government and of our people have strengthened our democracy and continue to import into it economic and social content in increasing measure.

We are fortunate in the historic background that our national struggle developed and the inspiration that the life and example of the Father of the Nation gave to us. In this eleventh year of our young Republic, we may look back as well as forward, with pride and confidence, though not with complacency. The tasks ahead of us are stupendous. They call for constant vigilance, greater determination and discipline and a sense of purpose both among our people and in our administration. This alone will make our democracy a reality in terms of the masses of our people.

Our vast resources and the qualities of our people have become engaged in the tremendous tasks of construction and progress that lie ahead of us. In these, the quality of our administration into which must be imported an

ever-increasing sense of urgency, rationalisation of procedures, the emergence and development of greater confidence at all levels, and the avoidance of waste of manpower and time, must be an urgent consideration.

It will continue to be the constant endeavour of my Government to initiate and further efforts and plans to bridge the gaps between the time of formulation of policies and their implementation to enable our people to participate at all levels in our economic and social developments, and for them to feel a sense of function and dignity which Independence has brought to us.

My Government seeks to uphold the dignity and independence of our land and people, to promote our unity and social well-being, and to build a democratic and socialist society in which progress is sought and attained by peaceful means and by consent.

Members of Parliament, I bid you to your labours in this new session and wish you all success. I earnestly trust that wisdom and tolerance and a spirit of co-operative endeavour will guide you. May your labours bear fruit for the good of our country and people and the world whom we are all privileged to serve.