

ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT—14 FEBRUARY 1961

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,

I welcome you to your labours in a new session of Parliament.

The year we have left behind has been one of considerable stress and strain both internally and externally. My Government have faced the problems that arose by their strenuous endeavours and by firm adherence to the principles of their basic policy, and with confidence in the future. Though many and stubborn problems still await solution, or are in the process of being solved, the situation both at home and abroad shows signs of improvement and justifies hope and cautious optimism.

The problems of aggression on and incursions into the sovereign territory of the Union have yet to be resolved, but my Government is well alert to them and to all their implications. Defensive arrangements, including the opening up of areas by better communications and development, receive their continuous and careful attention.

While China has withdrawn from the military post it had established at Longju and not attempted any further violations of Union territory, her intransigence continues. It is the constant endeavour of my Government to maintain our defensive strength in the face of this continuing hostility from across our frontier. My Government will, however, seek to adhere firmly to the principles which this Nation regards as basic in our relations with nations. They cannot accept the results of unilateral action or decisions taken by China.

This peaceful but firm policy and progressive preparedness for defence, has the support of our people and has also profoundly influenced world opinion. We firmly hold that the frontiers between India and China have been for long well established by treaties, custom and usage. In spite of

present unwillingness, or even intransigence, my Government hope that, sooner rather than later, China will persuade herself to come to a satisfactory agreement with our country in regard to our common frontiers. Friendly relations with our great neighbour, which my Government have always sought to promote, can then become a reality which will endure and contribute to our common good and to stability in Asia and the world.

In pursuance of the agreement announced in the joint communique, issued in April last at the end of the meeting in Delhi between the Prime Minister of China and my Prime Minister, designated officials from their respective Governments have been engaged in talks in New Delhi, Peking and Rangoon. These talks have now concluded. The report submitted to my Government by their officials will be laid before Parliament.

My Government have welcomed the emergence of many independent countries in the continent of Africa to full statehood and their admission as full members in the United Nations. This awakening of Africa and the emergence of many sovereign republics is a matter of gratification to us. We welcome especially their declarations to remain unaligned and not to become involved in the cold war conflict. This constitutes a welcome vindication, on merits, of the policy consistently followed by my Government in regard to international relations.

The situation in the Congo continues to cause my Government deep concern, involving as it does the freedom and integrity of this recently liberated country, the progress and development of the African continent itself, as well as both the prestige and potency of the United Nations as an instrument for settling international problems and the protection of the weak against aggressive countries. The pressure of Belgian arms, military and semi-military personnel, and their aid to some of the rival groups in the Congo, in defiance of reiterated decisions of the United Nations, are the main disturbing factors in the Congo situation.

My Government will continue to follow a policy based upon their dedication to the purposes of the United Nations and their desire to see the Congolese people in the full enjoyment of their newly-won freedom. To this end, my Government have consistently urged the withdrawal of the Belgians, the release of political personalities and more particularly those who have parliamentary immunities, the neutralization of factional forces and armed groups and the summoning of Parliament and the restoration of constitutional authority.

Nearer our own country, in Laos also, a situation has developed that causes grave concern. My Government continue to use their best endeavours for the reactivation of the International Commission with the consent and authority of all concerned, to prevent further deterioration of the situation. Spread of conflict there might have serious repercussions in Asia and the world, and it is the policy of my Government to endeavour to avert it.

Goa continues to be under the colonial domination of Portugal. My Government stand committed to the peaceful liberation of this part of India where a decadent colonialism still survives.

India's relations with her neighbours and other countries have continued to be peaceful. My Government, firmly adhering to the policy of peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness, seek to promote these relations without becoming entangled in military alliances with one country or another.

To promote goodwill, there have been exchanges of visits with other countries. I visited the Soviet Union to return the courtesy of the visit of the President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to India. I am grateful for the warm welcome which the President, his Government and the people of his country extended to me. The Vice-President visited the United States of America and France.

My Prime Minister paid visits to the United Arab Republic, Lebanon, Turkey and Pakistan. Other Ministers and some special representatives of Government have visited various countries either on missions of goodwill or for definite purposes. These countries include Ceylon, Mexico, the countries of Western and Eastern Europe, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana and the Mongolian People's Republic.

Diplomatic representation was established last year with the Republics of Uruguay, Paraguay, the Congo and the Malagasy Republic.

My Government welcomed the emergence of Cyprus as an independent Republic, thus terminating the long period of colonial domination.

Her majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Prince Philip/Duke of Edinburgh, kindly accepted my invitation to visit India. We have been happy to have them with us, and they are the honoured and welcome guests not only of myself, but of my Government and our people.

We have also had the privilege of welcoming to our country Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan, representing His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Mr. Khrushchev, Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, His Majesty the King of Nepal, President Nasser of the United Arab Republic, President Soekarno of Indonesia, President Sekou Toure of Guinea, Professor Theodore Heuss, former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Vice-President Macapagal of the Philippines, and the Prime Ministers of China, Burma*, Poland, Nepal and Ceylon*. We are also happy to receive Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Bhutan and Sikkim as our distinguished guests. The visits of all these high dignitaries have been a great honour to us.

The main issue before the world today is that of disarmament. My Government have persevered on every occasion, more particularly in the United Nations, to assist to formulate a basis of agreement among nations,

* Now known as Myanmar.

** Now known as Sri Lanka.

more especially among the Great Powers, in this regard. To this end, my Government have placed proposals before the General Assembly of the United Nations, the purpose of which is that disarmament negotiations should be definitely directed to the outlawing of war as in instrument for settling disputes between countries.

The Union of South Africa persists, much to our regret and in spite of every effort that we make, to discriminate against her nationals of Indian origin and to build her society on the basis of total racial discrimination, that is, apartheid. The disregard of human dignity, the violation of human rights and the policy and practice of apartheid have shocked the world more than ever before.

The outline of the Third Five Year Plan has been completed by the Planning Commission with the co-operation of the State Governments and has been approved in principle by the National Development Council. As soon as the Draft Report is ready, it will be placed again before the National Development Council, and later before Parliament.

The national income for 1959-60 is estimated to be Rs. 12,210 crore at 1952-53 prices, as compared with Rs. 10,920 crore in 1955-56. The annual rate of increase has not been as much as we had hoped. This was due to severe set-backs suffered by agriculture in 1957-58 and 1959-60. This year's crops, however, are expected to be good, and industrial production is rapidly rising.

Price levels have registered a rise of about 6 per cent, as compared to the previous year. Various measures that my Government have taken have checked this rise and, in some cases, such as cloth, prices have shown a downward movement because of Government action. In spite of the difficulties encountered and the decline in our foreign exchange reserves, the outlook, both in agriculture and industry, is definitely promising.

Panchayati Raj, or village democracy, has made rapid strides. My Government hope that before the end of 1961 Panchayati Raj institutions would have been introduced in all the States. An elaborate programme for the training of non-officials to help these institutions efficiently has been inaugurated. Service Co-operatives have increased their membership by approximately 18 million and are expected to disburse loans to the extent of 190 crores of rupees.

Agricultural production has again shown definite improvement in 1960-61. The production of *Kharif* cereals in 1960-61 is now estimated to be more than two million tons higher than that in 1959-60, and it is expected to be higher than even in 1958-59 when our production figure was the highest on record. The prospects of the *Rabi* crop are also bright. On the whole, 1960-61 may turn out to be a very good year from the point of

view of agricultural production. The increase in internal production, along with the measures taken by my Government to build up substantial reserve stocks, has already brought about a healthy trend in foodgrain prices. The targets of minor irrigation and seed multiplication farms, laid down in the Second Five Year Plan, are expected to be realised almost fully. Intensive cultivation is being encouraged throughout the country, and, more especially, in selected areas. Under the Third Five Year Plan, agricultural development is being given a high priority, so as to provide a strong base for the economic development of the country. The aim is to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains, and to increase considerably other forms of agricultural production.

Industrial output has risen, in some cases, spectacularly. For the first ten months of 1960, the production index was 167 as against 149 for the corresponding period of the previous year. The three steel plants in the public sector have been almost completed and are now in progressive production. The manufacture of industrial machinery and machine tools has made satisfactory progress. New sources of oil have been discovered, notably in Ankleshwar in Gujarat and in Sibsagar in Assam. It is expected that trial production will commence this year. Work on two refineries is proceeding, and a third refinery is also going to be established.

The prospects of the use of atomic energy for industrial purposes, as well as for medical and agricultural uses, have advanced by the inauguration of the third reactor, the Canada-India reactor, which came into operation recently.

Among multipurpose river valley projects, the Chambal River Project, the Gandhi Sagar Dam and the Kotah Barrage were inaugurated, and two of the five units of 90,000 kilowatts each have been commissioned at Bhakra. The remaining three units are likely to be commissioned in the course of the next few months.

Labour relations, apart from the recent regrettable strike by Government Employees, have improved. The Code of Discipline has exercised a healthy influence, and there is an appreciable fall in the number of days lost. The Employees State Insurance Scheme has been extended to further areas to cover about 15.8 lakh factory workers. Tripartite wage boards have already dealt with major industries of cotton textiles, cement and sugar and have been set up for jute and tea plantations. Pilot schemes for workers' participation in management have been introduced in some industrial units.

Progress has been made in regard to the introduction of Hindi in the administration. A Central Hindi Directorate has been constituted to carry out the decisions of Government regarding the development and propagation of Hindi.

As Members of Parliament are aware, in July last my Government decided in consultation with the Naga leaders to constitute a separate State of Nagaland within the Indian Union. As a first step, I have promulgated a Regulation under which representatives have been elected to an Interim Body to assist and advise the Governor in the administration of Nagaland during the transitional period. My Government are determined to put down the hostile elements which are creating so much hardship and suffering for the people there.

A statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the financial year 1961-62 will, as usual, be laid before you.

Two Ordinances, namely 'The U.P. Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Ordinance', and 'The Banking Companies (Amendments) Ordinance', have been promulgated since the last session of Parliament.

Members of Parliament, since I addressed you last, your two Houses have passed 67 Bills. There are 16 Bills pending before you from the last session. My Government will take steps to seek the passage of these Bills during this session.

My Government propose to take appropriate steps for the convening of a joint session of Parliament for the consideration of the Dowry Prohibition Bill in regard to which the two Houses have differed in some respects.

My Government will place before you the following Bills, among others, for your consideration:

1. The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill
2. The Extradition Bill.
3. The Indian Patents and Designs Bill.
4. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill.
5. The Sugar Export Promotion (Amendment) Bill.
6. The Narcotics Bill.
7. The Apprenticeship Training Bill.
8. The Himachal Pradesh Abolition of Big Landed Estates and Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill.

Members of Parliament, I have drawn your attention to some of the main events and achievements, for the past year. I have also projected before you my Government's programme for the coming year. I have drawn your attention to the great tasks and burdens that are in front of us all. I have no doubt that these will engage your dedicated attention. Your understanding, vigilance and co-operation in respect of the many problems

of our economic planning, our defence, world peace and the struggle of still dependent peoples, will, I feel sure, be available to my Government and help reassure our people. The resources of our country and the qualities of our people stand engaged in the historic and tremendous tasks of national reconstruction and progress that are part of our destiny.

My Government will constantly endeavour to initiate and promote efforts and schemes to shorten the time between their decisions on policies and the implementation thereof. They will seek to enable our democracy to share and participate at all levels in the great economic and social developments that must progress, if we are to survive as an independent nation with dignity and a sense of fruitful function. The unity and the social well-being of our entire people, the rapid progress to a democratic and socialist society, wherein changes must be timely and progress grow from more to more, must be attained peace-fully and by consent.

Members of Parliament, I now bid you to your arduous labours and wish you success in them. I am confident that wisdom and tolerance and the spirit of co-operative endeavour will be your guide. May your labours yield a rich harvest and thus advance our country and people and the world which we are all pledged to serve.