

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15A of the Indian Museum Act, 1910:—

- (i) The Indian Museum (Amendment) Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 218 in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 1976.
- (ii) The Custody and Handling of Exhibits in the Indian Museum Calcutta (Amendment) Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 219 in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 1976. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10386/76.]

12.02 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table following seven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 30th January, 1976:—

1. The Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Amendment Bill, 1976.
2. The Nagaland Appropriation Bill, 1976.
3. The Pondicherry Appropriation Bill, 1976.
4. The Regional Rural Banks Bill, 1976.
5. The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
6. The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Bill, 1976.
7. The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Bill, 1976.

2. Sir I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following twenty Bills passed by the Houses

of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 30th January, 1976:—

1. The Burmah Shell (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Bill, 1976.
2. The Delhi Development (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
3. The Election Laws (Extension to Sikkim) Bill, 1976.
4. The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1976.
5. The Imports and Exports (Control) Amendment Bill, 1976.
6. The Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Bill, 1976.
7. The Maintenance of Internal Security (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
8. The Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
9. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Bill, 1976.
10. The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
11. The Assam Sillimanite Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Refractory Plant) Bill, 1976.
12. The Press Council (Repeal) Bill, 1976.
13. The Equal Remuneration Bill, 1976.
14. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
15. The Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Bill, 1976.
16. The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Bill, 1976.

[Secretary-General]

- 17 The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1976
- 18 The House of the People (Extension of Duration) Bill, 1976
- 19 The Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund Bill 1976
- 20 The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill 1976

1204 hrs

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT'S PRE-CON-
DITION FOR TALKS ON SHARING OF GANGA
WATERS

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (How-
rah) I call the attention of the Minis-
ter of External Affairs to the follow-
ing matter of urgent public importance
and request that he may make a state-
ment thereon

"The reported precondition laid
down by the Bangladesh Govern-
ment for talks on sharing of Ganga
Waters and the dilemma arising out
of it"

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO
CHAVAN)** As the House is aware an
Agreement was concluded at Dacca on
18th April 1975 between the Govern-
ments of India and Bangladesh which
provided for the operation of the
Farakka Barrage and the running of
the feeder canal during the lean season
last year pending further discussions
regarding allocation of the lean season
flows of the Ganga between the two
countries in terms of the Joint Decla-
ration of the Prime Ministers of India
and Bangladesh of 18th May 1974

In their Declaration, the two Prime
Ministers took note of the fact that
the Farakka Barrage Project would be
commissioned before the end of 1974

They recognised that during the pe-
riods of minimum flow in the Ganga,
there might not be enough water to
meet the needs of the Calcutta Port and
the full requirements of Bangladesh
and, therefore, the fair weather flow of
the Ganga in the lean months would
have to be augmented to meet the re-
quirements of the two countries. It
was agreed that the problems should
be approached with understanding so
that the interests of both the countries
are reconciled and the difficulties re-
moved in a spirit of friendship and
cooperation. It was accordingly de-
cided that the best means of such aug-
mentation through optimum utiliza-
tion of the water resources of the
region available to the two countries
should be studied by the Joint Rivers
Commission for making suitable re-
commendations to meet the require-
ments of both the countries

The Government of India have ex-
tended an invitation to the Govern-
ment of Bangladesh to hold talks for
the utilisation of the Ganga waters at
Farakka during the lean season so
that a solution consistent with the
legitimate needs and interests of the
two countries may be found in a spirit
of friendship, understanding and co-
operation and on the basis of the Joint
Declaration of May 1974

The Government of India have
drawn attention of the Government of
Bangladesh to the fact that discussions
regarding allocation of the Ganga
waters have always been confined to
the lean season from about mid-March
to about mid-May for the obvious
reason that during the remainder of
the year the water flows are plentiful

According to the best information
and expert assessment available with
the Government of India any with-
drawal of the waters of the Ganga in
Bangladesh or in India ought not to
have any adverse consequences for
either country because of the abun-
dant of water throughout the year,