

ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT—12 MARCH 1962

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,

This is the last occasion on which I am addressing you in this Parliament.

Members of the Lok Sabha, you are about to end your five year tenure of membership of your House. A new Lok Sabha will meet very shortly after the conclusion of your present labours. Many of you have been returned by the people to serve the country again. Some of you will cease to be Members of Parliament consequent on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and the election. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you and to convey to you the gratitude of the nation for your dedicated service as Members of Parliament. I have also no doubt that wherever your field of work may be hereafter you will remain dedicated to the great task of nation-building and that your wisdom and experience will continue to be engaged in the service of our country and people.

Members of Parliament, When I addressed you last, our Third Five Year Plan with its larger perspectives and higher targets was under preparation. The Plan has now been well launched. The experience of previous plans, the momentum that they have generated, and the greater nationwide understanding and appreciation of planned effort in nation-building augur well for the success of this Plan and will take us nearer our goal—a self-sustaining economy capable of increasing and generating resources for larger and further development.

In spite of the heavy damage inflicted by floods in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Madras* and Kerala, the agricultural yield for 1961-62 is encouraging. The development of agriculture has been accorded a high priority in the Third Five Year Plan. The aim has been not merely to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains but to step up the production

* Now known as Chennai.

of commercial crops as well as to ensure adequate supplies of raw material for our growing industries and to help export to earn foreign exchange. The overall index number of agricultural production rose to 139.1 in 1960-61 compared to 128.7 in 1959-60, thereby showing an increase of 8.1 per cent. This increase was shared both by foodgrains and commercial crops. Compared to the index for 1955-56, the base year of the Second Five Year Plan, the overall index of production for 1960-61 was higher by about 19.1 per cent.

By soil conservation measures and dry farming practices some 33 million acres of land will be brought under improvement. Minor irrigation schemes will bring 12.8 million acres of additional land under cultivation during the Third Plan. My Government have decided to set up an Improved Seed Corporation to organise on a nation-wide scale the production, distribution and marketing of seeds of higher yield and disease-resisting quality. The demand for fertilisers far exceeds supply. More fertiliser factories are therefore being set up to meet partly the increased needs. Local manure resources and the use of green manure are also being promoted.

An extensive Agricultural District Programme has been put into operation in selected districts in seven States. Crop production campaigns have been launched in all States during the year. Panchayats, Cooperatives and other institutions in the village are closely associated in these campaigns. Four new Agricultural Colleges and two new Veterinary Colleges and more Agricultural Universities are to be established during the Third Plan.

Industrial production has registered considerable increase in volume and greater diversity in categories of projects. The output in iron and steel, machinery, electrical goods and fertilisers has been significantly higher than last year. The attainment of targets and the increase in our national income in 1961-62 are expected to accord with those set out in the Plan.

There is, however, no room for complacency or any slackening in effort. There are considerable strains and stresses, as for example, in regard to transport and supplies of coal. These are no doubt due to the sharp rise in economic development.

A determined effort to implement the physical programmes as set out in the Plan would require care in regard to economy and efficiency and the endeavour to keep to time schedules and priorities, all of which are the continuing concern of my Government, will alone help the country to overcome these obstacles.

My Government have decided to expand the steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur and to establish a new integrated iron and steel plant at Bokaro, and a new alloy steel plant at Durgapur.

The augmented target for coal production of 97 million tons in the Third Plan calls for plans of development in this industry. Major schemes are being launched in the public sector with assistance from the U.S.A., France, Poland, West Germany and the U.S.S.R. The private sector in coal will be able to utilise a 35 million dollar loan from the World Bank to meet its foreign exchange requirements.

At Neyveli, the lignite bed was exposed in the August of last year. The first thermal power station using lignite is expected to be commissioned soon.

In Gujarat at Ankleshwar, appreciable and gainfully exploitable sources of oil have been found. In addition to the refinery at Nunmati which went on stream in January 1962, it is also proposed to establish a refinery of two million tons capacity in Gujarat.

Our trade deficits show a welcome decline from Rs. 364 crore to Rs. 218 crore as compared with the previous twelve month due to the fall in imports and a slight rise in exports. My Government by their continuous and strenuous endeavours to promote exports have added new items of export and newer markets, and established new incentives to augment export trade. While the increase in export is a moderate Rs. 34 crore worth in the year past we may justifiably feel encouraged that a favourable trend in our trade balance can now be a feature of our economy.

The Code of Discipline in industrial relations evolved in May 1958 on a voluntary basis is being increasingly observed and has resulted in the settlement of a large number of disputes which might otherwise have led to direct action by one side or the other. Joint Management Councils in industrial undertakings set up on a voluntary basis have shown that the effective consultation which they promote has led to improved industrial relations and increased productivity.

The development and growth of Panchayati Raj and co-operation are integral to progressive agricultural and rural development. The efforts of my Government in this direction have already resulted in large scale extension of village self-government in eight States and it is estimated that this covers 65 per cent of the country's population.

My Government have made provision for education for all children in the age group of 6-11 during the Third Plan which will enable 90 per cent of the boys and about 62 per cent of the girls to be at school making a total of 76 per cent of the total population of all children in the age group 6-11. Legislation to make attendance of children compulsory will be recommended to various State Governments.

The study of Sanskrit is expected to make considerable advance in the next few years by the establishment of a Central Sanskrit Institute at Tirupati which will also conduct research in specialised branches of Sanskrit learning.

The demand for trained personnel in the fields of Engineering and Technology continues to grow. To meet this demand, apart from strengthening the existing institutions, more institutes were set up in different parts of the country.

To assist poor but meritorious students a large number of scholarships have been instituted.

The policy of my Government accords priority in promoting measures for the eradication of communicable diseases. This has resulted in the near eradication of malaria and the widespread control of tuberculosis and venereal diseases. My Government have recently initiated a programme for the eradication of smallpox in the country.

To overcome the scarcity of pure drinking water which exists in the majority of our villages, assistance will now be made available to the extent of 50 per cent on a grant-in-aid basis on approved rural schemes and on a 100 per cent loan basis in regard to urban schemes.

Irrigation has made significant advances. The Rs. 43 crore Narmada Project inaugurated in April 1961 will irrigate one million acres of land and yield an effective half a million kilowatts of power.

The first channel of the Rajasthan Canal system was opened by the Vice-President in October last. This canal when completed and operated will convert the deserts of Rajasthan into the largest grain bowl of India.

The new broad-gauge line to Siliguri *via* Malda has re-established a broad-gauge rail connection between Calcutta* and North Bengal, which had been severed by the Partition. Over 700 route kilometres of railway lines serving the industrial East have been electrified.

Two important centenaries were celebrated during the year and nationally observed. The Tagore Centenary attracted distinguished writers from all over the world to its International Literary Seminar. The Centenary programme includes the erection of a Tagore Theatre in every State Capital.

The Archaeological Survey of India also celebrated its centenary which attracted to its International Conference of Asian Archaeology savants from different parts of the world. The exhibition in Delhi made live to our people in graphic form the historic continuity of our civilisation and made the past not a story of ruins and fossils, but a source of national pride and inspiration.

* Now known as Kolkata.

India's uneasy relations with China remain unsolved. The Officials Report, which was placed by my Government before Parliament in 1961, has not yet been published in China.

The Indo-Tibetan Agreement of 1954 is due to expire on the 2nd of June 1962. The Government of the People's Republic of China have offered to negotiate a new Agreement to replace the 1954 Agreement. My Government responding by way of reply have asked for a reversal of the aggressive policies pursued by our neighbour and for the restoration of a climate of peace on the basis of the strict observance of the Five Principles.

In the Congo, as Parliament is aware, my Government at a critical period took a crucial decision to send adequate armed forces to assist the United Nations, although it was and continues to be a great strain upon us to do so. Our men and officers have behaved with remarkable bravery, discipline and restraint and above all with understanding. They have received the plaudits of nationals of all countries not to speak of the United Nations authorities. While we would like to bring these troops home in view of our own necessities, my Government feel that the essential tasks for which India sent troops remain unfulfilled and, therefore, have agreed to continue the assistance which was given, even though our men are working in difficult conditions, and have taken the necessary steps for the relief of personnel that have been too long in Africa. My Government are also gratified that in this matter there are some indications of a co-operative United Nations outlook between the Western Powers and the Soviet Union.

My Government note with great relief and gratification the moves towards reconciliation on the basis of the independence of Algeria. They are deeply distressed at the continued violence which is taking a heavy toll of life, and they await with expectation the successful outcome of the present Algerian-de Gaulle efforts. My Government have repeatedly proclaimed their position that the only firm basis for a peaceful settlement is the independence of the Algerian people, and enduring peace is best brought about by peaceful methods.

India has been elected to the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee. My Government have accepted this onerous role in the hope that the policies to be pursued and the contribution which we have made in the past may help healthy developments, and that as a peace-minded country and with the growth of peace areas in the world India may be able to participate and assist the process of reconciliation and peaceful settlement. Meanwhile my Government will use their best efforts in every direction to lower tensions in the world. My Government hope that the disarmament negotiations will, in spite of difficulties, lead to a warless world which is our aim and policy.

My Government continue their participation in the International Conference on Laos at Geneva and the International Commission for Supervision and Control. We have adhered to the policy that the Laotian problem can only be solved on the basis of national independence and of the full freedom of the people and Government of Laos to maintain neutrality which should be assured by all concerned. Although the problem awaits solution, the indications are that we may look forward to a Laotian Government wedded to these principles under the Premiership of the distinguished statesman, Prince Souvanna Phouma. We are continuing to participate in the International Commissions for Supervision and Control in Vietnam and Cambodia in the interest of peace.

My Government also continue their participation in the U.N. Emergency Force in Gaza, to which India has contributed a contingent.

We welcome to the comity of independent nations several African States including many States in the former French Colonial Africa, Sierra Leone, formerly British, and Tanganyika, a former Mandated Territory under British Administration.

We have appointed diplomatic representatives to Syria, Senegal and Tanganyika, and established trade relations with Kuwait and with North and South Korea whose representatives also visited this country.

We welcome the emergence of Western Samoa as an independent country.

My Government have concluded an agreement with the Soviet Union on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

The President of the Soviet Union, the King and Queen of Malaya, King Mahendra of Nepal, President Frondizi of Argentine, President Zawadski of Poland, the Vice-Presidents of the U.S.A. and the U.A.R, the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Hungary, Japan, Trinidad and Burma* paid visits to India and had discussions with my Prime Minister on a variety of topics of mutual interest. The Foreign Minister of France and the Secretary of State of the United States also visited India and had discussions with my Prime Minister.

Indo-Pakistan relations have shown no signs of improvement. We have repeated our offer to the Pakistan Government to sign a 'No War' Agreement. The Pakistan Government requested the Security Council recently to debate the Kashmir issue again although they had not in any way implemented or honoured the agreements which they made with us and the United Nations in regard to withdrawal of forces, etc. or stopped aggressive activities across the cease-fire line or aiding subversion inside Kashmir. The Security Council has, however, deferred its consideration of the Pakistan request.

* Now known as Myanmar.

As Parliament is aware, after fourteen years of patient negotiations and waiting and giving an opportunity for the friends of Portugal to resolve the problem of the Portuguese colonialism on our mainland, the Government of India, in the interests of peace, the unity of India and on account of the irresistible volume of public opinion in our country, had to take action to bring an end to Portuguese colonialism on the mainland. This issue was precipitated by acts of flagrant aggression by Portugal including firing upon our merchant shipping, the killing of our nationals and intrusion into our territory. While there has been ill-informed criticism from some countries, the rest of the world has applauded this action and indeed the populations of all countries appear to welcome the end of Portuguese colonialism in at least a part of the world.

I am very happy, as you Members of Parliament are, that the operation in regard to Goa was practically bloodless, and certainly entirely so in regard to civilian populations including our compatriots and all others. Goa is administered by a Military Governor under civil law and legislation will be introduced in the present Parliament to regularise the position of these territories as integral part of the Union of India. We have however repeatedly assured the peoples in Goa and the world that the personality that this area has acquired as a result of history would be respected, within the limits of the fundamentals of our Constitution, and that any changes would be constructive and smooth. The people of the former Portuguese colony have the protection of the fundamental rights and the basic principles of our Constitution. My Government propose to submit a Bill to Parliament in this session on this matter.

My Government have agreed to help finance the first Five Year Plan for economic and social development in Bhutan to the tune of Rs. 17 crore. Communications in this area are receiving priority consideration by the Bhutanese Government itself and under the Border Roads Development programme. It is hoped that during this year it will be possible to establish motor traffic in Bhutan. My Government are happy that the initiative for all these developments has been taken by the Bhutanese Government, in which my Government are cooperating.

A statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the financial year 1962-63 will be laid before you for the purpose of passing votes on account authorising expenditure for a part of that year.

As this session of Parliament will be a very brief one, only essential legislation will be taken up during this session. Some Ordinances which have been promulgated since the last session will be placed before Parliament.

General Elections are now complete. Members of Parliament, I would like to echo your sense of rejoicing that this vast democratic exercise has been peaceful, orderly and in accordance with our constitutional processes.

We have set an example to ourselves and indirectly assisted the confidence in the world in the institution and the processes of Parliamentary Government.

As a result of the elections my Government have received a significant vote of confidence in their internal and external policies and a renewed mandate to strive strenuously and with speed for the establishment of a democratic socialist society and for the extension of the democratic institutions and processes on the basis of universal suffrage to the remotest of our villages, making democracy a reality. The policies of national integration and world peace through non-alignment, peaceful approach to problems, lowering of tensions and negotiated settlements have also received the endorsement of the nation. This renewed assurance and confidence placed by the great majority of our people in my Government and the avowal of their support for policies, internal and external, that have been repeatedly endorsed by Parliament and widely discussed by the country prior to the election, reinforce these policies and place on my Government a nationally mandated obligation and added strength to implement these policies.

Members of Parliament, I now bid you farewell. I feel confident that those of you who do not return here as legislators, will pursue useful and constructive roles in various fields of national activity so essential for the advancement of our democracy and for the building of our socialist society and for the furtherance of peace in the world. Those of you who have received the mandate of the electorate to continue your legislative activity will join with others who will come here for the first time to continue the arduous but constructive and fruitful labours for nation-building.

In a short time a new Parliament will be inaugurated and as in years past, but with renewed vigour and galvanised strength, you and they can strive for establishment and further implementation of the principles of our Constitution, namely:

Justice, social, economic and political;

Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

Equality of status and of opportunity;

And to promote among all the citizens;

Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation.

These have been fully placed by my Government before our nation during the vast and educative process of our election and in its full implications.

I wish you all success and good fortune wherever you may be.