

ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT—18 APRIL 1962

Lok Sabha	—	Third Lok Sabha
Session	—	First Session after the 3rd General Election
President of India	—	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Vice-President of India	—	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
Prime Minister of India	—	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
Speaker, Lok Sabha	—	Sardar Hukam Singh

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, Members of the Third Parliament of our Republic, to its inaugural session. Amongst you are a large number who have been Members of Parliament in years past and who once again sought the suffrage of your respective electorates and received at their hands a renewal of confidence. There are others among you who, though not new to public life or perhaps even to legislatures, have been elected to Parliament for the first time.

I congratulate you all and welcome you to united endeavour in the service of our common motherland. Each one of you will find in your tenure as Members of Parliament, whether it be in the legislature itself or in your constituencies, vast and varied opportunities and compelling necessities, for sustained and constructive work in the service of our country. The task of nation-building for which Parliament has both the continuing and ultimate responsibility, calls for the full exercise of your capacities of deliberation, analysis, constructive criticism, vigilance and dedication.

About a month ago I addressed the last session of the Second Parliament and bade them farewell. I then surveyed briefly the progress that was being achieved in different fields of our national life and effort. The country has made progress in many fields even during the short period between that occasion and now when I have the privilege to welcome you.

Our planned economy is the basis of our material development and of the maintenance of a dynamic, social and economic equilibrium. The Third Five Year Plan is in its second year and has made a good start. It is envisaged as a large-scale effort to build up our national economy, to

increase productivity and employment and to ensure the development of society on the basis of justice, social, economic and political, as enjoined by our Constitution. The Plan must increasingly bring within its scope of implementation larger numbers of our people as participants in production with both skills and understanding of the national objective.

Pilot projects for the utilisation of rural manpower were initiated some time ago. This rural works programme is being expanded and now covers 200 development blocks. Pilot projects for the intensive development of village and small industries in selected rural areas are also being taken up, the ultimate aim being to bring about a diversified and balanced economy in all rural areas.

My Government have also taken steps for setting up an Institute of Applied Manpower Research in Delhi. A scheme for the establishment of unemployment relief and assistance as set out in the Third Five Year Plan has been drawn up. A Central Institute of Labour Research is to be set up at Bombay*. A substantial portion of the working force is also expected to be covered during the Third Plan period under the scheme of workers' education. This is meant to promote the appreciation of our national objectives, as well as the understanding of the basic principles and the acquisition of the knowledge and skills which would help workers to organise themselves.

Agricultural production is steadily moving up and the food situation in general is quite satisfactory. Industrial production maintains an upward trend despite power shortages in some areas.

In the field of Atomic Energy, the production of Radio Isotopes for use in agriculture, biology, industry and medicine has registered an increase. Radio cobalt produced at Trombay is now made available to hospitals in the country. Agreements of collaboration and development in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes were concluded last year with Hungary, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Panchayati Raj which has caught the imagination of our people, it being so well in accord with our traditions and our way of thinking, is to be implemented in four more States, bringing the total number to twelve.

The work on a second refinery in the public sector at Barauni is in progress. It will process two million tons of crude oil per annum. The first one million ton units is scheduled to be commissioned within the next twelve months.

It is proposed to have a chain of pipelines from Nunmati to Siliguri and from Calcutta** to Delhi *via* Barauni. In the Western part of the country pipelines will link the oil fields with the proposed refinery, and a product

* Now known as Mumbai.

** Now known as Kolkata.

pipeline will run from the refinery to Ahmedabad; also small gas lines from the oil fields to different power stations for transporting petroleum products in the east and crude oil, gas and finished products in the west. These pipelines are scheduled to be completed within the Third Five Year Plan period. They will afford considerable relief to our railway transport system.

India has been elected a member of the Disarmament Committee of 18 Nations and also of the Committee for the implementation of the Resolutions of the United Nations. No appreciable progress has yet been effected in the deliberations on disarmament at Geneva. The Conference is continuing its efforts, pending achievement of general and complete disarmament, to deal with specific issues such as cessation of nuclear test explosions, avoidance of surprise attacks thereby increasing confidence among nations, agreement on nuclear-free zones, a halt in the armament race. The Conference is also engaged on reaching agreement on the draft of a Disarmament Treaty. Its preamble is now under consideration. My Government will use their best and dedicated endeavour for speedy progress and the successful outcome of the Conference. In particular and as a matter of most immediate concern, along with other Nations, our Delegation will help to initiate and support proposals for the cessation of nuclear tests.

An interim Budget for 1962-63 was presented in the last Parliament and votes on account authorising expenditure for a part of the year obtained. A Budget will be presented again to the new Parliament in this session, with such changes as may be considered necessary, and Parliament asked to approve funds for the whole year.

My Government propose to introduce the following Bills:

1. Bills to implement some of the recommendations of the Law Commission.
2. The Constitution (Amendment) Bills.
3. The Atomic Energy Bill.
4. The Electricity (Supply) Amendment Bills.
5. The Patents Bill.
6. The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill.
7. The Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill.
8. The Port Trusts Bill.
9. The Oil & Natural Gas Commission (Amendment) Bill.
10. The Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill.
11. The Factories (Amendment) Bill.
12. The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill.

13. The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill.
14. The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill.
15. The Working Journalists (Amendment) Bill.
16. The Employees' Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill.
17. The Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill.
18. The Wealth Tax (Amendment) Bill.
19. The Finance Bill (No. 2).

Members of Parliament, this is the last occasion on which I shall address you as the President of the Republic. It has been a great joy and privilege for me to serve our motherland as the elected head of the people for over twelve years. I have had my share of Parliamentary life and duties prior to acceptance of this high office and cherish the highest regard for and confident hopes in our parliamentary institutions and ways. I have no doubt that you will maintain the high traditions established by your predecessors.

It is also our good fortune that our Parliament enjoys the respect of our people and it has become rooted in our political sentiments. While it derived its basic norms and procedure from the British Parliament, it has developed its own dynamism and it continues to do so, establishing its own conventions and methods born in the context of our own experience and needs.

As I said in my last address it is the objective and purpose of my Government to follow steadfastly firm policies and to implement effective measures to establish in our land a democratic and socialist society. Thus alone will national progress and increase in productivity be synonymous with social justice, and dynamic progress will be peaceful and our country will march with firmness and speed.

I now bid you farewell and leave you to your labours, confident that with your experience, your patriotic fervour and your sense of dedication to duty, the imperative call of the urgent tasks that await us will always and in full measure command your skill and dedication.

I wish you well. May all of you and our Parliamentary institutions progress in strength and stability, inspire our people to more and more democratic endeavour and assist in the process of the growth of peace and international co-operation.