

ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT—21 FEBRUARY 1955

Lok Sabha	—	First 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 G.V. Mavalankar

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,

I am addressing you again after a full year. This past year has been, I am glad to say, one of considerable achievement for our country, both in the domestic and the international spheres. Parliament and our people have justification to view their labours with some satisfaction. There is no reason, however, for complacency. We have to face difficult problems in our own country and the threat of war again darkens the future of humanity.

I am happy to say that our relations with all other countries continue to be friendly and there has been growing understanding and co-operation with many of them. We have had distinguished leaders of many countries visiting India. During the past year, we have had visits from the Prime Ministers of Canada, Indonesia, China and Ceylon*. We have also welcomed in India the President of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Governor-General of Pakistan. Our Vice-President has carried the message of our goodwill to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay and Italy. My Prime Minister paid friendly visits to China, Burma**, Indonesia, the States of Indo-China and Egypt. He has recently attended the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London, where matters of vital concern to the peace of the world were discussed in a frank and friendly manner.

I should like to mention especially the agreement between China and India in regard to Tibet. This agreement confirmed the friendship between these two great countries, which is so important for the peace of Asia and the world. In this agreement certain principles were laid down which are of even wider application and which have been recognised as such by many

* Now known as Sri Lanka.

** Now known as Myanmar.

other countries. These five principles, which are sometimes referred to as the Panch Shila, are mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence. I commend these principles to you and earnestly trust that they will increasingly form the basis of international relations, thus ensuring peace and security all over the world.

During this past year, another development of importance took place at the instance of the Prime Minister of Ceylon*. This was the meeting of the Prime Ministers of Ceylon*, Burma**, Indonesia, Pakistan and India at Colombo. Later a similar meeting was held at Bogor in Indonesia. These meetings gave organised expression to the views and urges of these countries, which are a large part of Asia, and undoubtedly served the cause of peace. As a result of these meetings, it is now proposed to hold a conference in Indonesia consisting of representatives of the independent nations of Asia and Africa. This conference marks another stage in the development of the countries of these two great continents and in their emergence in the sphere of world affairs. It will, I am sure, bring greater understanding and co-operation among them and further the cause of world peace.

An outstanding event of the past year, and indeed ever since the Second World War ended, was the Geneva Conference which brought an end to the war in Indo-China and laid the basis for a peaceful solution of the problems of the States of Indo-China. The Geneva conference dealt with problems of great importance and difficulty but the efforts of the Powers concerned to find a peaceful solution met with success. That conference thus set an example, which I hope will be followed in future, for settlement of other international disputes and conflicts.

As a result of the Geneva Conference, India has accepted heavy responsibilities in the three international commissions appointed in Indo-China. These Commissions, under India's chairmanship, have already done good work in implementing the decisions reached at Geneva and deserve praise.

Unfortunately, other conflicts still continue, endangering the peace of the world. Among these, the most serious at the present moment is that relating to the Far East and, more particularly, to Formosa and the offshore islands of China. My Government recognises only one Government of China, that is, the People's Republic and considers that the claims of this Republic are justified. I earnestly hope, however, that these difficult problems will be solved peacefully and by negotiation.

* Now known as Sri Lanka.

** Now known as Myanmar.

There is, indeed, no other way left for the solution of international disputes, if sanity is to prevail. Nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons have been developed to such an extent that a war in which these are used would bring ruin to the world. No problem can be solved, no objective achieved, by this self-destruction of humanity. A hydrogen bomb not only destroys every living thing utterly within a large radius but also produces intense radio activity which will carry destruction to a much larger area. There is no defence against such weapons. Some eminent soldiers of different countries have stated categorically that a major war today, in which these weapons are used, has become unthinkable. I earnestly hope that the fearful nature of these weapons will lead not only to the total banning of their production but also to the realisation that war itself should be abolished as a means of settling any problem.

While atomic energy brings this threat of utter destruction to the world, it also gives a message of hope, provided it is used for peaceful purposes. Atomic energy provides the vast power necessary to raise the standard of living of the population of the entire world. It is of special importance for the development of the underdeveloped countries. We must welcome, therefore, that the United Nations has decided to call a scientific conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy at Geneva. This conference will not only explore the possibilities of atomic power but will also consider the biological, medical and agricultural aspects.

Another example of a peaceful negotiated settlement of a difficult problem is the *de facto* transfer to the Indian Union of the French possessions in India. We are happy to welcome the citizens of these territories. I would like to express my appreciation of the statesmanship of the French Government in dealing with this problem. I hope that the problem of the Portuguese possessions in India will also be settled before long in a peaceful way.

The economic situation in the country has shown continued and marked improvement. Many of the targets laid down by the Five Year Plan were exceeded even in three years. The output of foodgrains in 1953-54 exceeded the Five Year Plan target by about 4.4 million tons. The index of agricultural production which was 96 in 1950-51 rose to 114 in 1953-54. The index of industrial production which stood at 135 in 1953, the highest figure since independence, increased to 144 in 1954. This index has increased at an average rate of ten per cent per annum during the last four years.

As a result of the improvement in production, many of the controls have been removed. The more abundant supply position of foodgrains created a tendency to depress prices unduly in certain surplus pockets. To prevent prices from falling to unremunerative levels, it has been decided to purchase certain foodgrains at specified prices.

My Government have decided to acquire effective control over the Imperial Bank of India in order, more especially to afford increasing banking facilities in rural and underdeveloped areas. The establishment of the Indian Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation is expected to prove of great benefit to the private sector of our industry.

Considerable progress has been made in the production of fertilizers at Sindri. The Hindustan Shipyard at Visakhapatnam delivered two eight thousand ton ships and launched another seven thousand ton ship in the course of the year. The Telephone Cable Factory at Rupnarainpur in West Bengal has gone into production. It has been designed to meet in full the requirements of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The Penicillin Factory at Pimpri and the D.D.T. Factory at Delhi are about to commence production and it is proposed to establish another D.D.T. plant to meet the requirements of the Anti-Malaria campaign.

My Government attach great importance to increasing the iron and steel production in the country. With this end in view, two new steel plants, to be owned by the State, have already been decided upon. One is to be established at Rourkela. The other plant will be set up in the Bhilai region of Madhya Pradesh. A preliminary agreement, in regard to the latter, has been arrived at with the Government of the U.S.S.R.

My Government attach great importance, both from the point of view of production and of giving employment, to the growth of cottage and small-scale industries. With a view to introducing modern techniques in these industries, four regional institutes of technology are being established.

The great river valley schemes have shown considerable progress and a number of new projects are being started. In particular, I should like to draw attention to the public co-operation we are receiving in many of these projects. I would especially like to mention the great public response in respect of the Kosi project.

The Community Projects and the National Extension service programme have already covered, in a little more than two years since its inauguration in October 1952, about one-fifth of the rural population of India. At present, about 88,000 villages are being served by this programme which has achieved substantial results in agriculture and animal husbandry, public health, communications, education and irrigation. It is proposed to cover, by the end of the Second Five Year Plan, the entire country by the National Extension Service. The most remarkable feature of this programme is the response and enthusiasm of the people who are beginning to acquire a new faith in themselves and the habit of working together on joint programmes for the common good.

There has been steady improvement in the rate of development and of expenditure under the Five-Year Plan, both at the Centre and in the States. Special measures have been taken for permanent improvement in areas affected by scarcity, in rural and urban water supply schemes and in the electrification of rural areas and small towns.

The preparation of the Second Five Year Plan has now begun. It is expected that this Plan will be a more far reaching one than the First Plan, and that it will lay greater emphasis on the establishment of capital goods industries, on the provision of greater employment and on a re-orientation of the system of education.

A situation having arisen in Andhra State in which the Government of the State could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, I have taken necessary action by Proclamation in accordance with Article 356 of the Constitution. Elections are now being held in the State, and it is hoped that normal constitutional machinery will be restored before long.

You will have to consider the Constitution Fourth Amendment Bill. These amendments have become necessary in order to further economic and social progress and to give effect to the Directive Principles of State Policy as embodied in the Constitution.

A statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the financial year 1955-56 will be laid before you.

Since the last session of Parliament, it became necessary to promulgate one Ordinance. A Bill dealing with this Ordinance will be placed before you. There are also a considerable number of other Bills pending, some of which have been considered by Select Committees.

The progress we have made during the past year has produced in our people self-reliance and hope for the future. That is the surest foundation on which we can build. It is for you, Members of Parliament, to give shape and form to this hope and to advance the country to its cherished goal of a Welfare State and a society conforming to the socialist pattern.