

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in the Library See No. L.T. 774/96]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Copper Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in the Library See No. L.T. 775/96]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Steel Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in the Library See No. L.T. 776/96]

**Indian Telegraph (First Amendment)
Rules, 1996**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Indian Telegraph (First Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 79(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 1996, under sub-section(5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. [Placed in the Library See No. L.T.777/96]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

12.03 hrs.

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1996, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on 4th December, 1996".

**APPRENTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996
AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA**

12.03½ hrs.

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1996 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 4th December, 1996.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you assured me that you would allow me to raise the matter regarding what happened in Kashmir yesterday. It is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you, wait for some time

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everybody will get a chance

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, the report of Amarnath Yatra...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri I.K. Gujral will make a statement now.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

12.04 hours.

Visit of the President of the People's Republic of China

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, his Excellency Mr. Jiang Zemin, President of People's Republic of China, paid a State visit to India from 28 November, 1996 to 1 December, 1996 at the invitation of the President of India. President Jiang had meetings with our President, Vice-President, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Parliament and myself. He had detailed talks with the Prime Minister. He also met leaders of political parties. Separately, I had a long meeting with my counterpart, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen. These talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The Chinese President also interacted with the business community and visited Agra.

This was the first visit by a President of the People's Republic of China to India. The visit was a part of the continuing process of dialogue at the highest level initiated with the visit of former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to China in 1988. Our former President, Shri R. Venkataraman and former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao have visited China. We have received Premier Li Peng and other high ranking Chinese leaders in India. The Parliaments of the two countries have maintained contacts with the visits of the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Hon. Deputy-Chairman, Rajya Sabha to

* Not recorded