

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha of the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 6th April, 1979:—

1. The Coconut Development Board Bill, 1979.

2. The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1979.

3. The Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1979.

4. The Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Amendment Bill, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up the Calling Attention. Shri Nirma] Chandra Jain.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Which Indian border are they talking about here? Because, we have common borders with China, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

MR. SPEAKER: Everything.

12.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED MASSIVE ARMS BUILD UP ACROSS THE INDIAN BORDERS.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): I call the attention of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

Reported massive arms build up across the Indian borders.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is aware of the steady build-up of military capability that has been going on in some of our neighbouring countries. Various reports on this have appeared, from time to time in the world Press, and references to it have been made during discussions on the floor of the House on different occasions. In the course of the debate on the budget grants for the Defence Ministry, concern was expressed by many Hon'ble Members at the induction of arms, and the build-up of military capability in some quarters of our neighbourhood there have been reports of their efforts to acquire modern military hardware.

As I have made clear on various occasions, Government took careful note of these developments on the basis of continuous review. I have also stated that these are fully taken into account in drawing our own defence plan and programmes.

However, I would like to dispel any impression that there has been any unusual concentration of movement of forces across our borders, in recent weeks or months. In fact, there are no reports to indicate any development of this nature, such as can be considered unusual or particularly disturbing. There is, therefore, no cause for any anxiety or concern on this score.

I would also like to avail of this opportunity once again to assure the House that our valiant Armed Forces are fully vigilant on the borders and maintain absolute defence preparedness at all times.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: There are indications, as the hon. Minister has said, that there is some build up of military forces on our borders. We very well know that Pakistan is trying to make the atom bomb. It has been confirmed because of the cut in foreign aid to that country by America.