

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15A of the Indian Museum Act, 1910:—

- (i) The Indian Museum (Amendment) Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 218 in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 1976.
- (ii) The Custody and Handling of Exhibits in the Indian Museum Calcutta (Amendment) Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 219 in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 1976. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10386/76.]

12.02 hrs.

#### ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table following seven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 30th January, 1976:—

1. The Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Amendment Bill, 1976.
2. The Nagaland Appropriation Bill, 1976.
3. The Pondicherry Appropriation Bill, 1976.
4. The Regional Rural Banks Bill, 1976.
5. The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
6. The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Bill, 1976.
7. The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Bill, 1976.

2. Sir I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following twenty Bills passed by the Houses

of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 30th January, 1976:—

1. The Burmah Shell (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Bill, 1976.
2. The Delhi Development (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
3. The Election Laws (Extension to Sikkim) Bill, 1976.
4. The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1976.
5. The Imports and Exports (Control) Amendment Bill, 1976.
6. The Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Bill, 1976.
7. The Maintenance of Internal Security (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
8. The Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
9. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Bill, 1976.
10. The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
11. The Assam Sillimanite Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Refractory Plant) Bill, 1976.
12. The Press Council (Repeal) Bill, 1976.
13. The Equal Remuneration Bill, 1976.
14. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
15. The Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Bill, 1976.
16. The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Bill, 1976.

[Secretary-General]

- 17 The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1976
- 18 The House of the People (Extension of Duration) Bill, 1976
- 19 The Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund Bill 1976
- 20 The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill 1976

12 04 hrs

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT'S PRE-CONDITION FOR TALKS ON SHARING OF GANGA WATERS**

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE** (Howrah) I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon

"The reported precondition laid down by the Bangladesh Government for talks on sharing of Ganga Waters and the stalemate arising out of it"

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN)** As the House is aware an Agreement was concluded at Dacca on 18th April 1975 between the Governments of India and Bangladesh which provided for the operation of the Farakka Barrage and the running of the feeder canal during the lean season last year pending further discussions regarding allocation of the lean season flows of the Ganga between the two countries in terms of the Joint Declaration of the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh of 18th May 1974

In their Declaration, the two Prime Ministers took note of the fact that the Farakka Barrage Project would be commissioned before the end of 1974

They recognised that during the periods of minimum flow in the Ganga, there might not be enough water to meet the needs of the Calcutta Port and the full requirements of Bangladesh and, therefore, the fair weather flow of the Ganga in the lean months would have to be augmented to meet the requirements of the two countries. It was agreed that the problems should be approached with understanding so that the interests of both the countries are reconciled and the difficulties removed in a spirit of friendship and cooperation. It was accordingly decided that the best means of such augmentation through optimum utilisation of the water resources of the region available to the two countries should be studied by the Joint Rivers Commission for making suitable recommendations to meet the requirements of both the countries

The Government of India have extended an invitation to the Government of Bangladesh to hold talks for the utilisation of the Ganga waters at Farakka during the lean season so that a solution consistent with the legitimate needs and interests of the two countries may be found in a spirit of friendship and understanding and cooperation and on the basis of the Joint Declaration of May 1974

The Government of India have drawn attention of the Government of Bangladesh to the fact that discussions regarding allocation of the Ganga waters have always been confined to the lean season from about mid-March to about mid-May for the obvious reason that during the remainder of the year the water flows are plentiful

According to the best information and expert assessment available with the Government of India any withdrawal of the waters of the Ganga in Bangladesh or in India ought not to have any adverse consequences for either country because of the abundance of water throughout the year,