

the joint participation of the two Great Powers—the United States of America and the Soviet Union—and their agreement in regard to any solution. At the last General Assembly of the United Nations, some progress was made in this direction, but the deadlock continues. That General Assembly, however, passed a unanimous resolution on peaceful co-existence which, following as it did the deadlock over disarmament, gives some hope that a fresh approach may still be made.

My Government holds the opinion that a meeting at high level of the great States with any others, on whom they might agree, would help to ease tensions, would bring about an atmosphere of peaceful tolerance, as provided in the United Nations Resolution of December 14, 1957, and open the way towards the easing of tensions and some progress in the field of disarmament.

My Government have engaged themselves at the United Nations in continued efforts to help to ease tensions and to advance the view that on co-existence and respect of each other alone can solutions be found.

India has been elected as a member of the Disarmament Commission. The Commission can, however, meet effectively only if all countries concerned are willing to participate. My Government intend to do their utmost to help to bring about a solution.

My Government continue to press in the United Nations and elsewhere for the suspension of nuclear explosions, the dangers of which are becoming more and more the concern of scientists and indeed of peoples all over the world. My Prime Minister made an appeal to the heads of the United States of America and the Soviet Union in regard to suspension of these tests as a first step towards disarmament. My Government will continue their efforts in these fields.

The International Supervisory Commissions in Indo-China, of which India is Chairman, have continued to function effectively despite difficulties and peace in that area has been

maintained. A welcome development has been an agreement reached in Laos between the Royal Laotian Government and the Pathet Lao leaders and a political settlement there is within sight.

My Government have heard with regret and surprise reports that some countries had sought at a recent meeting of the Baghdad Pact to be equipped with atomic weapons. We profoundly believe that none of the Great Powers will give encouragement to these desires and the outlook that persists.

For ourselves, my Government desire to make it clear beyond all doubt, that while we could, if we so decided, unwisely, produce atomic weapons, with the resources and skills that we have and can develop, we have no intention whatsoever of acquiring, manufacturing or using such weapons or condoning their use by any State. Our endeavours in the atomic field will remain confined to the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Members of Parliament, I wish you success in your labours, and trust that they may help to bring greater prosperity and contentment to our people and peace and co-operation in the world.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table the following seven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 20th December, 1957:

1. The Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
2. The Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Bill, 1957.
3. The Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1957.
4. The Estate Duty and Tax on Railway Passenger Fares (Distribution) Bill, 1957.

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5. The Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Bill, 1957.
6. The Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
7. The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Bill, 1957.

Sir, I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary of Rajya Sabha, of the following seventeen Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 20th December, 1957:

1. The Naga Hills-Tuensang Area Bill, 1957.
2. The Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1957
3. The Public Employment (Requirement as to Residence) Bill, 1957.
4. The Reserve Bank of India (Second Amendment) Bill, 1957
5. The Capital Issues (Control) Amendment Bill, 1957.
6. The Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Amendment Bill, 1957
7. The Opium Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1957
8. The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
9. The Preventive Detention (Continuance) Bill, 1957.
10. The Delhi Development Bill, 1957.
11. The Navy Bill, 1957.
12. The Countess of Dufferin's Fund Bill, 1957.
13. The Prevention of Disqualification (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
14. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
15. The Delhi Municipal Corporation Bill, 1957.

16. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Bill, 1957.
17. The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENTS TO COIR INDUSTRY RULES

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 26 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, a copy of Notification No. S.R.O. 3983, dated the 12th December, 1957, making certain amendments to the Coir Industry Rules, 1954 [Placed in Library. See No LT-499/58]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER SEA CUSTOMS ACT

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of Section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, a copy of each of the following Notifications —

- (1) S R O No. 3517, dated the 1st November, 1957 containing the Customs Duties Drawback (Hydraulic Brake Fluid) Rules, 1957.
- (2) S R O No 3599, dated the 11th November, 1957.
- (3) S R O No. 3600, dated the 11th November, 1957, containing the Customs Duties Drawback (Radio Receivers) Rules, 1957.
- (4) S R O No. 3679, dated the 14th November, 1957.
- (5) S R O No. 3680, dated the 14th November, 1957 containing Customs Duties Drawback (Ivory Products) Rules, 1957
- (6) S.R.O. No. 3748 dated the 21st November, 1957.
- (7) S.R.O. No 3749, dated the 21st November, 1957 containing the Customs Duties Drawback (Rooting Felt) Rules, 1957.
- (8) S.R.O. No. 3757 dated the 23rd November, 1957.