

INDIA POSTS AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT



RC / PILANI - 14 STE 762 / SIR B N RAO CASE CONSTITUTION
NEW DELHI =

SUGGESTION MADE THAT THE DRAFT OF CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE
PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CRITICISM BEFORE IT IS
ACTUALLY CONSIDERED BY THE ASSEMBLY IN DECK STOP SUGGESTION
APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE BUT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR
VIEWS AND THOSE OF PRIME MINISTER AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE BEFORE
DECIDING STOP ANYWAY DRAFT CAN BE PUBLISHED ONLY AFTER BEING
SETTLED BY THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE = RAJENDRAPD

H. P. discussed this matter further with me and
considered that the best course would be to publish
the draft of the Constitution (as it now stands) for information.
It would be published as the draft submitted to the
Drafting Committee; the draft as revised by that Committee
would, of course, not be available until later.

H. P. will probably consult the Cabinet before
taking action. The file may be re-submitted to him now

Birkan
21/10/47

H. P.

Let me consult the Cabinet members informally

Re 24/10

In view of Dr Ambedkar's letter to Drafting Committee should be asked
for expression of their opinion on the 27th when they meet. Write to him

Re 24/10



S. No 2

1, Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi, the 23rd October 1947.

My dear Dr. Ambedkar

It has been suggested that the draft of the Constitution should be published and copies of it made available to the public before it is put up before the Constituent Assembly for consideration and finally passed. I consider this suggestion to be reasonable as the public should be kept informed about the form which our constitution is likely to take. If we are to wait until the draft has been revised by the Drafting Committee, there will probably be no time left for getting it printed and published. I, therefore, propose to have the draft prepared by the Constitutional Adviser published at this stage and copies of it made available to the press and the public. When the Drafting Committee makes any amendments or modifications, those amendments may also be published. Unless you consider this course or the publication undesirable, I propose to give instructions to the Secretariat to take necessary steps in this behalf. It is hardly necessary for me to add that the Constitution of a country is a very important and vital thing and nothing but good can result from keeping the public informed about the developments taking place in drawing it up.

Yours sincerely,

Rajendra Prasad

(RAJENDRA PRASAD)

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar,
Minister of Law, India,
New Delhi.



o/c

5/10/47

3

1, Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi, the 23rd October 1947.

It has been suggested that the draft of the Constitution should be published and copies of it made available to the public before it is put up before the Constituent Assembly for consideration and finally passed. I consider this suggestion to be reasonable as the public should be kept informed about the form which our constitution is likely to take. If we are to wait until the draft has been revised by the Drafting Committee, there will probably be no time left for getting it printed and published. I, therefore, propose to have the draft prepared by the Constitutional Adviser published at this stage and copies of it made available to the press and the public. When the Drafting Committee makes any amendments or modifications, those amendments may also be published. Unless you consider this course or the publication undesirable, I propose to give instructions to the Secretariat to take necessary steps in this behalf. It is hardly necessary for me to add that the Constitution of a country is a very important and vital thing and nothing but good can result from keeping the public informed about the developments taking place in drawing it up.

Yours sincerely,

sd/ Rajendra Prasad
(RAJENDRA PRASAD)

To The Prime Minister,
Deputy Prime Minister
The Law Member



S. No 3 u

New Delhi, the 23rd Octr. 1947.

My dear Dr. Rajendra Prasad,

Please refer to your letter of the 23rd October 1947 regarding the publication of the Draft Constitution prepared by the Constitutional Adviser. Personally myself I do not see any objection to the course proposed by you, but I think it will be better to take the opinion of the Drafting Committee before action in this matter is finalized. As the Drafting Committee is meeting on the 27th, a few days delay will, in my judgment, not matter very much.

Yours sincerely
B. R. Ambedkar

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
1, Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi.

It has been suggested that the draft Constitution should be published and copies should be made available to the public before it is put up for consideration by the Constituent Assembly at its next session. I consider this suggestion reasonable. It is desirable that the public should be kept informed about the shape that the Constitution is taking and it can be done only if the draft is made available. I should, therefore, like to act according to the suggestion. There is, however, one point which requires consideration. The draft that we have got at present is a draft prepared by the Constitutional Adviser. It is based partly on decisions arrived at by the Constituent Assembly and partly it covers also points about which no decision has been taken. The question is whether the draft as prepared by the Constitutional Adviser should be published or whether we should await the report of the Drafting Committee and publish the draft as finalized by it. There is one difficulty. The report of the Committee is not likely to be available till about the third or fourth week of November. The Constituent Assembly will be meeting in the second week of December. There will not be much time for the public to study the draft if it is published at that stage. I am, therefore, of opinion that the draft, as it is, should be published now with a note as to how it has been prepared and by whom and that it is being scrutinized by the Drafting Committee and if any changes or modifications are made by it, those changes will also be made public later on.

I shall be obliged if the Drafting Committee will let me know its own opinion on the matter. I shall be obliged for an early reply as I propose to take action as soon as possible.

Rajendra Prasad

24-10-47.

The Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar,
Chairman, Drafting Committee.



S. m. S.

6

Dated, New Delhi, 28th October 1947.

Signed

28/10.

Please refer to your note of 24th October 1947. The Drafting Committee met yesterday at 10-30 and I took the opportunity of placing your note before the Committee for its consideration. The Drafting Committee was of the opinion that as the present draft was likely to undergo several changes as a result of discussion in the Committee, it would be inadvisable to publish it at this stage. The Committee, however, agreed that the draft could be released for publication after it had been finally settled by the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

B.R.

(B.R. Ambedkar)
Chairman, Drafting Committee.

Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
President, Constituent Assembly of India,
New Delhi.



Sl. No. 6
4579/27PCH
New Delhi, 23.10.47

by hand Rajendra Prasad

Thank you for your letter of
the 23rd October, 1947.

2. I have no objection to your
printing the draft prepared by the
Constitutional Adviser for public
information and criticism.

Yours sincerely,
Rajendra Prasad

The Honourable
Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
1, Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi.

M.



By No 3848/Cons
22/11/47

Sl. No. 7

no D/S/889
NEW DELHI

4th November 1947.

44. P.
Return to H.P.
& forwarded to
the office for
recd.
Chandrasekhar
of D
Dear Dr. Rajendra Prasad,

Will you please refer to your letter dated the 2nd October addressed to the Prime Minister regarding the publication of the draft constitution prepared by the Constitutional Adviser? It is understood that you have since consulted the Drafting Committee and have accepted their advice that the draft prepared by them and not the draft of the Constitutional Adviser should be published. In view of this, the Prime Minister presumes that no further reply is necessary to your letter.

4586/47-PCA

Jan i
H. V. R. Iengar

(H.V.R. Iengar)
Principal Private Secy. to the
Prime Minister.

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
President, Constituent Assembly of India,
New Delhi.

By No 3849/P.S.

2/11/47



Sl. No-8

9

New Delhi,
October 28, 1947.

Dear Dr. Rajendra Prasad

p: 5 anti.

Please refer to your note of 24th October 1947. The Drafting Committee met yesterday at 10-30 and I took the opportunity of placing your note before the Committee for its consideration. The Drafting Committee was of the opinion that as the present draft was likely to undergo several changes as a result of discussion in the Committee, it would be inadvisable to publish it at this stage. The Committee, however, agreed that the draft could be released for publication after it had been finally settled by the Committee.

For enclosed to
The Secretary
Chairman
2/11

No. 4581/47.

Yours sincerely,

B.R. Ambedkar

(B.R. Ambedkar)
Chairman,
Drafting Committee.

Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
President,
Constituent Assembly of India,
New Delhi.