

Principles Of State Policy

CONSTITUENT BODY ACCEPTS ARTICLE

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Nov. 19.

Directive principles of State policy, claimed to be one of the unique features of India's Draft Constitution, were taken for detailed consideration in the Constituent Assembly today.

The House made much better progress this morning by adopting two articles and disposing of over 30 amendments, including one moved by the Socialist member, Seth Damodar Swarup, suggesting full-fledged socialisation.

Some members, including Prof. K. T. Shah, sought to make the principles of State policy not merely directive but mandatory, while Muslim members like Mr. Mahaboob Ali Baig opposed the clause as it incorporated the parliamentary type of Democracy, and added that, if it was to be retained, it should go under "fundamental rights."

• LAW MINISTER'S REPLY •

The Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, in a lucid reply to the critics, pointed out that the new constitution had a two-fold objective: first, to lay down a form of political democracy, and secondly, to prescribe the ideal of economic democracy which every Government, both at the Centre and in the provinces, should strive to implement. The first meant "one man, one vote" and the second "one man, one value." The directive principles were meant to be a test by which the Government should judge themselves and the people should judge the Government.

The House passed the article without any change and took up consideration of a motion moved by Syed Karimuddin, suggesting the inclusion of a new article stipulating that the State "shall strive to secure prohibition of manufacture, sale, transportation or consumption of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes." Messrs. Muhamad Ismail and Poker Sahib from Madras lent their support to the motion, suggesting that all shades of opinion in India were in favour of prohibition which was the main plank of the constructive programme of Mahatma Gandhi.

The amendment was, however, opposed by Messrs. Biswanath Das, former Premier of Orissa, and Mahabir Tyagi, who argued that, while they whole-heartedly supported the principle contained in the amendment, it was inappropriate in this part of the Constitution.

MILD UPROAR IN HOUSE

There was a passage of arms between two members from Madras—Messrs. Poker Sahib and Ananthasayanam Ayyanger—regarding the procedure for discussion on the clause and the amendments. Mr. Poker Sahib suggested that Mr. Ayyanger took upon himself too often the duties of the Chair. There was a mild uproar over this observation, which was alleged to be a reflection on the Chair, but the Vice-President, Mr. H. C. Mukerji, intervened and restored order.

(Details on page 9)