

# Qualifications For And Rights Of Indian Citizenship

## CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ADOPTS SIX ARTICLES

NEW DELHI, August 12. AFTER a two-day discussion, the Constituent Assembly today adopted six Articles defining Indian citizenship and detailing the various qualifications designed to cover all cases.

Many front-benchers participated in the general debate today which was initiated by Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, and was rounded off by Dr. Ambedkar with a 25-minute speech.

The articles deal with citizenship at the date of commencement of the Constitution, rights of citizenship of persons migrated to India from Pakistan, and of re-migrants from Pakistan to India under permanent permits granted to them by India, the rights of people of Indian origin residing outside India, the continuance of the right of citizenship and, above all, the power of Parliament to regulate citizenship laws.

The main criticisms centred in the provision granting right of citizenship to those persons who after having migrated to Pakistan from India have returned to India under permits for permanent re-entry and settlement. Some speakers suggested that it would operate unjustly against Hindus and Sikhs and would complicate the administration of evacuee properties.

Vigorous defence of the provisions of the Articles was made by Pandit Nehru, Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, Pandit Kunzru, Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyengar and Dr. Ambedkar.

Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar emphasised the tentative character of the proposals and urged the need to honour the word of the Government by granting citizenship to re-migrants from Pakistan.

**RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP**  
Pandit Kunzru felt that there could be no justification to refuse citizenship rights to Muslims who left India under compulsion but had now returned.

Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyengar also underlined the argument and pointed out that honour and dignity of the Government was involved in that Article.

Dr. Ambedkar thought it would be "a breach of faith" if they now said that the people who had returned from Pakistan for the purpose of permanent residence on the word of Government rightly or wrongly, should not have the right of citizenship.

Most of the amendments were withdrawn and the rest rejected.

Mr. Mahboob Ali Beg moving three amendments congratulated the Drafting Committee on its proposed citizenship Article but said that it was not complete. He wanted some provision to be made for cases that might arise during the period between the commencement of the

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ing, said that the matter had been sufficiently discussed for nine hours and he would personally like to put the matter to vote. But as a desire had been expressed by some members that there should be further discussion, he would put it to the House.

The motion for closure was carried by 59 votes to 35.  
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, replying to the debate, said, "Dr. Deshmukh stated that by our Draft Articles we have made our citizenship a very cheap one. I should have thought if he was aware of the rules which govern the law of citizenship, he would have realised that our citizenship, is no cheaper than in the laws of other countries."

It took nearly 20 minutes for the President to put the scores of amendment one by one before the House. Many of them were withdrawn. The House rejected all the amendments moved by Pandit Thakur Bhabha.

Dr. P. R. Deshmukh, Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed, and Mr. Jaspal Roy Kapur withdrew their amendments.

After having rejected the rest of the amendments, the House adopted the six Articles en bloc amidst cheers.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, after ascertaining the wishes of the House, adjourned the Assembly till 3 p.m. on August 18.—P.T.I.

### MERGER OF STATES WITH BIHAR

#### Orissa Members' Protest

NEW DELHI, August 12: The Constituent Assembly members representing the province of Orissa and Orissa States, in a resolution expressed their "profound disappointment and resentment over the integration of the two Orissa States of Seraikela and Kharswan with Bihar in utter disregard of the age-long cultural, educational, social and economic associations of the two States with Orissa."

The resolution said: "the subjects of these two States had demanded from 1940 onwards integration of the States with Orissa and this demand was accepted by both the States' rulers and the Government of India when in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister of India both the parties entered into an agreement at Cuttack on December 15."

"This agreement was a solemn piece of document which could not be changed without the consent of the parties concerned."

The members, therefore, urged for an early transfer of these two States to Orissa in accordance with the terms of agreement or reconstitution of the tribunal to ascertain the wishes of the people and effect a final solution of this question.—U.P.I.

## MISUSE OF TERMS SUCH AS "SECULAR STATE"

### Pandit Nehru's Warning In Constituent Assembly

NEW DELHI, August 12.

THE Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, today protested in the Constituent Assembly against the use of such expressions as "appeasement of Muslims" or "appeasement of Pakistan" by some of the speakers in describing the Government of India's attitude on the question of citizenship.

Pandit Nehru, who was supporting the Drafting Committee's Article on citizenship, also protested against the misuse of the words "Secular State" and advised those who indulged in it to consult the dictionary.

"This Government," declared Pandit Nehru, "will not go by a hair's breadth to the right or to the left from what they consider the right way of dealing with the situation, justice to an individual or to a group."

The Articles on citizenship, said Pandit Nehru, had probably given rise to more thought and consideration during the last few months than almost any other matter contained in the Constitution.

The difficulties had arisen from two factors—one was, of course, the partition of the country and the other was the presence of a large number of Indians abroad. In the Article moved by Dr. Ambedkar, the choice of acquiring Indian citizenship by Indians abroad was left very largely to them. It was also left to the Indian Consuls-General or other representatives of the Government of India. If they thought that a person did not qualify for Indian citizenship, they could refuse to enter their names in the register.

He, however, felt that Or. Ambedkar's proposals had succeeded in a remarkable manner in producing something which dealt with 99.9 per cent. of the cases with justice and practical commonsense.

#### CHIEF OBJECTION

He found that the chief objection taken by some of the speakers was with regard to Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar's amendment. (This was moved by Mr. Krishnamachari and provided for rights of citizenship to those returned to India from Pakistan on permanent permits). Presumably their presence here was objected to because it was thought that they might take possession of some of the property and thereby lessen the share of refugees or displaced persons who might otherwise take possession of it. Pandit Nehru thought that there was a great deal of misunderstanding about this matter.

"Our general rule in regard to the consequences of partition is that we accept practically without demur or inquiry that great wave of migration which came from Pakistan to India," Pandit Nehru declared. "We accept them as citizens. We allow a full year for that, up to some time in July, 1948. It is possible, of course, that in the course of that year, many working persons, came over whom we might not accept as citizens if we examined each one of them. But it is impossible to examine hundreds of thousands of cases like that, so we take the risk and we accept the whole lot 'en bloc'."

"After July, 1948, put in some kind of inquiry, registration before a Magistrate. Normally, if some 'prima facie' evidence is placed before the Magistrate, he will register, otherwise he may inquire more

### A. I. R. STATION DIRECTOR



Mr. R. Srinivasan, Assistant Station Director, All India Radio, Nagpur, who has been appointed Station Director, A. I. R. Bombay.

### Thackersey 'Varsity For Women

#### BILL TO BE MOVED FOR RECOGNITION

Facilities of Science, (including Domestic Science) Nursing, Fine Arts and Education will shortly be created in the Shree Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Indian Women's University. A Bill giving statutory recognition and existence to the University will be moved at the Poona session of the Bombay Legislative Assembly in September.

At present the University maintains only the Faculty of Arts, but, in view of the growing demand for education in subjects useful to women, the Bombay Government have decided to create separate faculties for those subjects. Even the Arts Faculty is to be expanded to include Social Science and Commerce.

The Indian Women's University Bill, which has been drafted on the lines of the Poona and Karnataka Universities Bills, provides for the constitution of a Senate and a Syndicate and an elected honorary Vice-Chancellor.

The present Bill contains many of the recommendations made by the committee. The draft Bill was sent to the University authorities and in the light of suggestions made by them certain changes have been made in the original Bill.

### Hyderabad Majlis Dissolved

#### "NO COMMUNALISM IN POLITICS"

SECUNDERABAD, August 12: "We are now convinced that communalism and religion should have no place in politics," say seven former leaders of the Majlis-e-Itehad ul Muslimeen, now in jail, announcing formal dissolution of the organisation, in the course of a joint statement to the press today.

They further state: "We have been given to understand by those who are sincerely striving for peace and communal amity in the State that the fact the Majlis has not yet been dissolved is creating doubts and suspicions in different quarters, and is standing in the way of peace and unity. Since we believe that communal politics should be ended, we consider it necessary that the Majlis-e-Itehad ul Muslimeen should be dissolved. The field of non-communal political activity is very vast and every Muslim can play constructive part in it."

Concluding they urge upon the Muslims to forget the past and help, in a spirit of co-operation and trust, side by side with their brethren of other communities, in the endeavours to create a secular republic in India.

Mr. Mohomed Yunus Salem, a non-party Muslim leader, who was largely responsible for contacting the Majlis leaders in jail with the permission of the Military Governor, and getting a statement for dissolution of the former communal organisation, in a statement appealed to the Military Government to release all detainees, who are not to be prosecuted on August 15.—U.P.I.

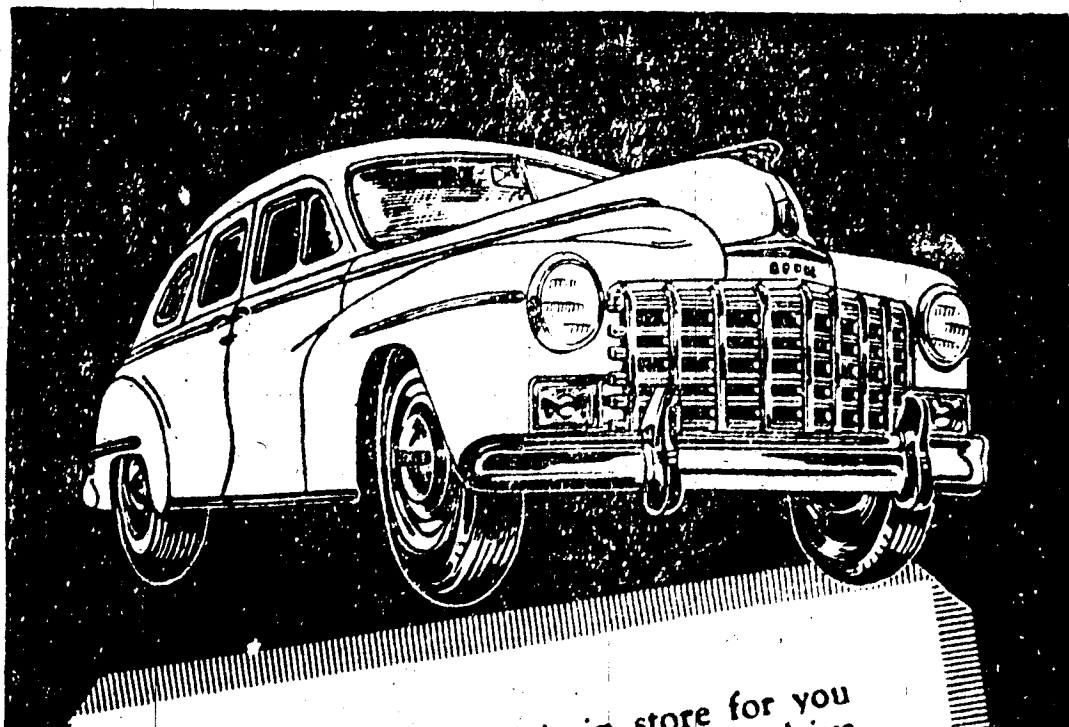
#### Congress Leadership

SECUNDERABAD, August 12: No change in the administrative set-up of Hyderabad State is expected until the New Year and the State Congress will not be pressing for it, informed sources told the U.P.I. today.

A section of the State Congressmen, formerly known as "dissidents," are more keen on a change in the Congress leadership than regarding the administration of the State, it was stated. They feel the urgency of completing first organisational elections.

Mr. Carlos Roldao Henriques has been appointed President of Maragao Municipality.

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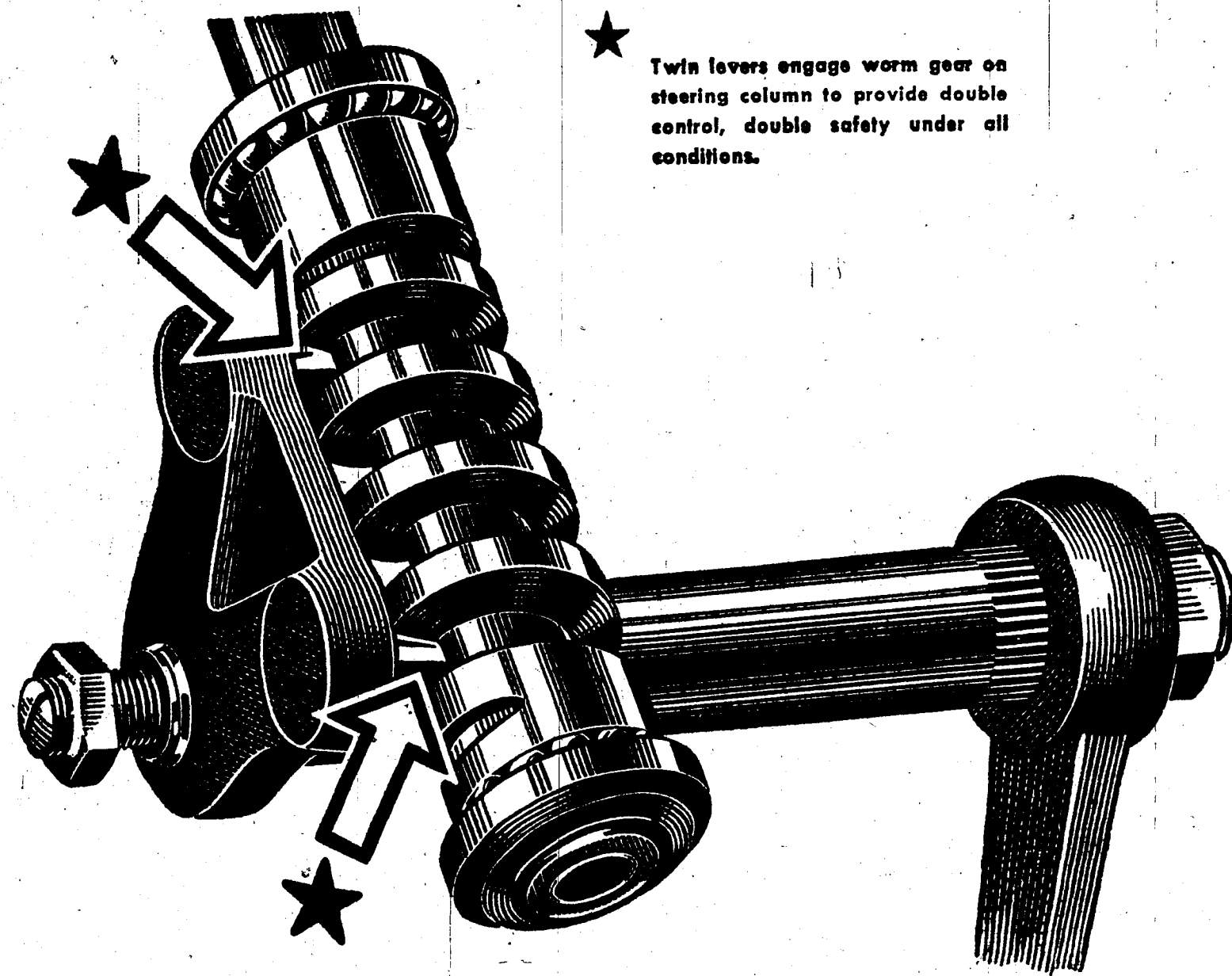
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