

Financial Provision In Constitution

RADICAL CHANGES EXPECTED

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, June 7.

Some radical changes are expected to be made by the Constituent Assembly when it takes up for final consideration in the next few days the financial provisions, both federal and provincial, contained in the Draft constitution.

The main feature of the amendments to be moved would be to enable Parliament, if it so desires, to tighten control over the financial administration of the country.

The provisions and their allied amendments largely follow the House of Commons model, eliminating the historical outgrowths attached to parliamentary system of financial procedure.

They provide for a budget session to be extended without any alteration in the financial year by provision for a vote of credit to cover the Government expenditure during the period of the new financial year during which a Parliament will be discussing the estimates. There is also an enabling provision for Parliament to change the financial procedure in the manner it thinks fit.

TWO NEW TERMS

The proposed changes introduce two new terms in the financial arrangement which were hitherto unknown—the bringing into being of a consolidated fund which in effect constitutes what are now known as the revenues of the Government of India.

Secondly, it provides for an Appropriation Bill which is in place of an authenticated schedule to be placed by the Governor-General on the day before the new financial year begins.

(Assembly Proceedings on page 9)