

# INDIA'S DRAFT CONSTITUTION

## Motion Approved By Assembly

From Our Special Representative  
**NEW DELHI, November 9.**

The Constituent Assembly today agreed to the motion of the Minister of Law, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, to take into consideration the draft constitution, as submitted by the Drafting Committee.

Only about 150 members in a House of 303 members were present when the motion was put to vote at the conclusion of a four-day debate in which about 70 persons participated.

The House will meet next Monday to consider clause by clause the draft constitution for which as many as 3,000 amendments, trivial and vital, have been so far proposed.

Two members of the Drafting Committee, Mr. Madhava Rao of Mysore and Mohamed Saadullah of Assam, replied to various points of criticism voiced during the proceedings. Mr. Madhava Rao's speech was considered unfortunate as some of his remarks about Congressmen and their practice of Gandhian ideals were resented by the House, while Mr. Saadullah sought to reinforce his effective reply to the criticism by citing details of changes made for the better in the constitution.

Today's proceedings were enlivened by a thought provoking speech by Mr. Thirumal Rao, the Andhra leader, who was one of the members of the Indian Parliamentary delegation to Rome and London.

### INDIA'S ROLE IN ASIA

Mr. Rao observed that India's western frontiers lay beyond Pakistan and the eastern frontiers beyond Assam. India, he added, might possibly conclude an alliance with Pakistan through some sort of super-federation in matters of defence, trade and allied matters. He was of the view that if India is to play a special role in Asia, she should remain a sovereign Republic, without entangling herself with any group of powers.

Both Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and Prof. N. G. Ranga upheld the village "Panchayat" system, the former suggesting the inclusion of a clause in the directives that autonomous village republics should be brought into existence in the new constitution.

Prof. Ranga and others who followed him were against reservation for minorities as they thought that it would perpetuate communal politics, which had proved so disastrous to this sub-continent.

Mrs. Renuka Ray declared that re-distribution of provinces on linguistic basis would be fatal for the unity of India and suggested that the Commission should suspend its activities forthwith.

Mrs. Ray said that women of India refused to have any kind of reservation or special safeguards.

(Details on Page 3)