

Framing Of Bikaner Constitution

CHIEF JUSTICE HEADS COMMITTEE

The Constitution Committee set up by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner to draft a new constitution will be under the presidency of Mr. Sham Nathji Mushran, Chief Justice of the Bikaner High Court and President of the Legislative Assembly. Rai Sahib Lala Kamta Prasad, Foreign and Political Secretary and Secretary, Constitutional Affairs, will be a member and secretary.

Other members will be the Raja of Bidasar, the Rayat of Rawatsar, Pandit Badri Prasad Vyas, Seth Santokh Chand Bardia, Sheikh Nissar Ahmad, (all members of the Legislative Assembly), Sardar Niranjan Singh, Lala Satyanarain Saraff, Pandit Surajkaran Acharya, and Chowdri Hari Singh. One more member is to be appointed later.

The Franchise and Constituencies Committee will consist of Rao Bahadur Thakur Prem Singhji, Revenue Minister, (Chairman); Thakur Kan Singhji, Deputy President, Legislative Assembly; the Rao of Bhukarka, M.L.A.; Malik Mehdi Khan, M.L.A.; Seth Lehar Chand Sethia, M.L.A.; Dr. Lall Singh; Chowdhri Harish Chandra; and Chowdhri Ram Chandra, District and Assistant Sessions Judge, Ganganagar, who will also be the secretary. The name of a ninth member will be announced later.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

In the proclamation announcing these appointments His Highness said: "The functions of the Franchise and Constituencies Committee will be to examine the question of a suitable franchise which will give the right of vote to as large a section of my people as possible, taking into due consideration the circumstances and conditions existing in the State, and to suggest the demarcation of constituencies, general and special (if required), keeping in mind the interests of the different classes and communities of my subjects. The Franchise and Constituencies Committee will work in consultation with the Constitution Committee.

"It is also my intention to reorganise the Judicial Committee and to place it on the highest level of efficiency and judicial independence. Proposals in this behalf are under active preparation.

"Your ancestors and mine together founded and built up this historic State", added His Highness's address to his people. "For very nearly 500 years we have lived and worked together as a happy family. Together we have shed our blood on many a field of battle to maintain it as an independent and sovereign State. Let us continue to strive hand in hand to maintain that proud tradition and to set an example before India of a happy and ordered political evolution.

"To all my people in Bikaner I would say—let us be proud of our State, this sacred land of our birth and that of our ancestors. Let us be proud of this great heritage of ours and through Bikaner be proud of India, our great and common mother country.

ASSURANCE TO JAGIRDARS

"To my Chiefs and Nobles I would say that their ancestors have rendered great services in the past to their Ruler and their State, in recognition of which they are now enjoying their jagirs. They should rest assured that their legitimate rights and privileges will be maintained by me and safeguards will be provided for the purpose in the future Constitution. They should in their own interests realise the necessity of co-operating and assisting their Ruler to the best of their ability in the task of bringing about calmly and peacefully the adjustments rendered necessary by the fast changing times so that the Jagirdars and the tenants may live peacefully and harmoniously together.

"To all classes and communities of my loved people I need hardly give the assurance that every care will be taken to protect and safeguard their legitimate interests in the constitution.

"To my gallant Army I would say—as their Sovereign and as their Commander-in-Chief, it is not only my privilege but it shall be my duty to uphold their traditions and to maintain unimpaired the Ruler's direct authority and control over, and his direct relations with, his Army".