

Third Reading Of India's Draft Constitution

NEARLY 550 AMENDMENTS TO BE DISPOSED OF BY WEDNESDAY

NEW DELHI, November 14. The Constituent Assembly met here at 11 a.m. today to take up the third reading of the draft Constitution. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President, was in the chair.

The House spent 15 minutes discussing matters of procedure. Dr. Prasad announced that all amendments—about 550 of them have been tabled—would be disposed of by 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

He ruled out amendments which did not arise out of those moved by the Drafting Committee but added that he would make an exception in the case of amendments which he considered reasonable or necessary. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, presented the report of the Drafting Committee together with the Draft Constitution of India as revised by that body. The revised draft contains 395 Articles and eight Schedules as against 315 articles and eight Schedules in the original draft printed in 1948.

Among the changes made in the revised draft is the addition of price control in the Concurrent List (matters within the concurrent jurisdiction of both the Centre and the units).

Justifying this addition, the Drafting Committee report says: "Article 369 (old 306) confers on Parliament power to make laws with regard to price control in respect of certain essential commodities for a period of five years. Power has been also given to Parliament to control prices of commodities produced by industries, the control of which by the Union is declared by Parliament to be expedient in the public interest. For the sake of economic unity and stability of the country, we consider that both Parliament and the legislatures of the States should be given power with regard to price control."

EVACUEE PROPERTY LAWS

The revised draft covers certain laws relating to evacuee property passed by the Central Legislature within 18 months before the commencement of the Constitution.

It was pointed out to the Drafting Committee that the fundamental rights in the Constitution might prevent validation by the legislature of acts done during the period when martial law is in force, and also prevent the indemnifying of persons in the service of the Union or of a State in respect of action taken by them during such period. The revised draft contains a new Article (34) to cover this contingency.

Two new Articles fix the quorum for Parliament at one-tenth of the total number of members of the House, until Parliament otherwise provides. In the case of legislatures of States, it is provided that, until they decide otherwise, the quorum should be one-tenth or ten members, whichever is greater.

Originally the quorum was fixed at one-sixth of the membership, both for Parliament and the State legislatures, but it was pointed out to the Drafting Committee that in actual practice it might prove unworkable. In the case of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative), the provision for quorum in the Government of India Act was amended so as to fix it at one-tenth instead of one-sixth. The analogy of the House of Commons of the U.K. Parliament was also pointed out to the Committee. The House of Commons quorum is only 40, which is less than one-tenth of the total strength of that House.

TRANSFER OF HIGH COURT JUDGES President's Powers

The Committee has proposed the insertion of a new Article to enable the President to transfer a Judge of a High Court from one High Court to another. The present provision in the Constitution would not permit of any compensatory allowance being given to Judges on such transfer. Power has accordingly been reserved to Parliament to determine by law the compensatory allowance to be paid in case they are so transferred, and, until Parliament so determines, to the President to fix by order the quantum of such allowance.

It has been pointed out to the Committee that there is a possibility of a further change being made in the territories of the units and that action in this direction might be taken under the existing provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935, between the passing of the Constitution and its commencement. It is, therefore, felt that authority should be given to the President to take cognizance of these changes on the date when the Constitution comes into force and to make appropriate changes in the schedules. A new Article has accordingly been proposed to empower the President to take the necessary action.

Amendments arising out of the changes suggested by the Drafting Committee were then moved by the members.

OBJECTIONS TO NEW ARTICLE

Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena sought the deletion of the new Article 34 dealing with indemnification for acts done by persons under martial law. He said that the new Article should be ruled out of order and the Constitution should have no reference to martial law.

The President, ruling out the objections, allowed the amendment of the Drafting Committee and said that all constitutions contained provisions for indemnification of acts done under martial law, and difficulty might arise if there was no such provision in the Constitution.

The next Article in which there was some discussion was Article 48, in the chapter on Directive Principles of State Policy, relating to the preservation of cows and milk cattle and prohibition of cow slaughter.

Both Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena and Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava who moved amendments said that the amendment of the Drafting Committee should not be permitted.

Prof. Saksena said that the Article as adopted by the Assembly at the second reading stage, provided for the specific prohibition of cow slaughter whereas the amendments proposed by the Drafting Committee had not. The Drafting Committee should not be allowed "to tamper" with the considered opinion of the House.

Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena by an amendment wanted deletion of

MILITARY MEDICINE



Representatives of a number of countries attended the Twelfth International Congress on Military Medicine and Pharmacy held recently at Havana, Cuba. Seen in the picture (front row) are: Colonel Buyadler Meull of Switzerland (left), and Gen. L. Jams of France. In the second row is Maj-Gen. D. R. Thapar, who represented India.

No Imminent Merger Of Saurashtra With Bombay

UNION ACCEPTS STATES MODEL CONSTITUTION

From Our Special Correspondent DHRANGADHRA, November 14.

INDICATIONS that the idea of merging Saurashtra into Bombay Province had been shelved were evident when three important amendments to the Covenant governing the Union of Saurashtra were adopted on Sunday by the Council of Rulers of the Union at a specially-convened meeting here.

According to one of the amendments, the Constitution framed by the Constituent Assembly of India becomes the Constitution of Saurashtra.

The second amendment to Article 9 of the Covenant transfers legislative authority from the Rajpramukh to the Saurashtra Constituent Assembly, which will function as the Union's interim legislature from January 20. These two amendments were suggested by the States Ministry.

The third amendment, which was put forward in the form of a resolution passed by the Council, alters Article three of the Covenant so as to make the Jam Sahab of Nawanagar the Rajpramukh of Saurashtra for life.

The existing Article prescribes that the Rajpramukh be elected every five years.

The Maharaja of Dhrangadhra, Acting Rajpramukh, presided, and Mr. V. P. Memon, Political Adviser to the States Ministry, addressed the Council.

STERLING SERVICES

The Council's resolution suggesting that the Jam Sahab be Rajpramukh for life is a fitting recognition of the sterling lead given by him to the Rulers of the Kathiawar and other States in integrating and democratizing their principalities. The resolution also removes what, in a large sense, was an injustice to the Jam Sahab of Nawanagar.

Unions formed after Saurashtra the Rajpramukhs have been appointed for their lifetime. Discussion in the Council dragged on for more than six hours, most of the time being taken up by the amendment converting the Saurashtra Constituent Assembly into the Union's legislature. The amendment, it is gathered, encountered much opposition, and Mr. Memon had to use all his powers of persuasion before the rulers could accept it.

OPPOSITION CONTENTION

Opposition was also evident in the lobbies, where some "representatives" of the people were canvassing the rejection of the suggested change. The grounds for the opposition, it is reported, were as follows: As testified by the Ministers themselves, the Rajpramukh has been thoroughly constitutional and has never vetoed or objected to any legislation placed before him by the Cabinet for his signature. The Ministry should not, therefore, object to the present arrangement which has worked satisfactorily for the last 20 months, and should let it continue undisturbed for another year or so till the General Election is held under the new Constitution.

Secondly, it was urged that those who were elected to the Constituent Assembly a few years ago could not be said to continue to enjoy public confidence, the defeat of the Congress-sponsored party in the recent municipal elections in Saurashtra being cited in support of this contention. It was, therefore, suggested that instead of vesting legislative authority in the present Assembly fresh elections should be held.

HASTY LEGISLATION

Finally, it was argued that the Rajpramukh being more accessible and amenable to reason could be prevailed upon by the people to apply the brake to hasty and ill-considered legislation, while, on the other hand he would lose all supervisory powers when once the legislative authority was vested in a legislature.

These arguments were countered by pointing out, first, that the Rajpramukh cannot use his theoretical supervisory powers in actual practice, because that would start a conflict between him and the popular Ministry. Secondly, the people and the press will have ample opportunities to express their opinions on all proposed legislation, which will have to be published in advance and pass through three readings if the power to legislate is given to the Assembly, whereas, now, the people come to know of legislative measures only as *fait accompli* when they are published as Ordinances in the Gazette. After much discussion the proposed Amendment was accepted.

Two minor amendments to Article 9 were also adopted, deleting clauses which empowered the Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution of Saurashtra. The change was

Poser for Marriage-Ministers!

Loyal, Loving and Loved young Adam married to the girl of his heart has to go to this SONGSTRESS for relief and comfort — WHY? Romantic and modern Bombay's Love-Puzzle is solved by "VARA-GHELI" or husband-crazy, Daily at the Majestic in organ for the last 30 crazy nights!

Meet me at Majestic to know the 'Why' and 'How' to-night and every night!

Musical and Dance of Love! Songstress to the rescue of the married Eve's happiness! HOW?

CARBON PAPERS

(English Make)

CARRIBONUM			
Gray Box (Typewriter)	size 13" x 8 1/2"	Black	Rs. 8 per Box of 100 Sheets.
Purple Box (Pencil)	size 13" x 8 1/2"	Blue	Rs. 8 per Box of 100 Sheets.

KO LOCK			
Record (Typewriter)	size 13" x 8 1/2"	Black	Rs. 8-8 per Box of 200 Sheets.
Record (Typewriter)	size 13" x 17"	Black	Rs. 20 per Box of 500 Sheets.
No. 2 & 7 (Pencil)	size 13" x 8 1/2"	Blue	Rs. 6-14 per Box of 100 Sheets.
No. 2 & 7 (Pencil)	size 18" x 23"	Blue	Rs. 100 per Beam of 500 Sheets.
No. 2 & 7 (Pencil)	size 17" x 27"	Blue	Rs. 125 per Beam of 500 Sheets.

Kolock Typewriter Ribbons. Rs. 24 per Dozen.

For Samples, please apply to:

THE NEW ERA STATIONERY STORES

Victoria Bldg., Parsee Bazar Street, Fort, BOMBAY. Telephone No. 27638.

Nes 109. Greens' Advtg.

Sheltered

as in a hermetically sealed glass balloon

The CYMA TRIPLEX movement

owes its successful protection against DUST and DIRT to the perfect construction of its specially built case.

CYMA TRIPLEX

SHOCK ABSORBER • RUSTPROOF • NON-MAGNETIC

WORLD'S FINEST WATCH FOR ROUGH WEAR AND TROPICAL CLIMATE

Ask your watch dealer or write for free illustrated booklet W.12 to the Sole Agents ANGLO-SWISS WATCH CO., 6/7, Dalhousie Square, Calcutta.

A simple and natural way to combat INDIGESTION

YOU CAN provide the right conditions for your digestion to restore itself to natural health if you give it a chance to rest by following this simple, sensible rule: Avoid a full meal when you are tired or worried or feel digestive discomfort. Instead, drink a cup of Benger's Food. Benger's soothes the stomach and gives your digestion a chance to recuperate and build up its strength. Yet it provides warmth and nourishment which you need in a form you can fully absorb without the least discomfort or digestive strain.

Benger's Food

Registered Trade Mark

An essential factor in REST-THERAPY -the natural treatment for Indigestion

Unregistered letters and post-cards only are now accepted at sender's risk for the following provinces in China, according to a Government Press Note:—Anhwei, Chahar, Honan, Hopeh, Chekiang, Jehol, Kiangsi, Kwangsi, Shansi, Shantung and Shensi. Mails will be forwarded to these places via Hong-kong.

The next despatch of overseas mails for Southern America the U.S.A., Canada, Trinidad, Demerara, Great Britain and Ireland, Europe, Mediterranean countries, Egypt, Arabia and Aden will be made from Bombay on November 17, 1949 by R.M.S. "Strathaird," says a Postal notification.

Mails arriving in the Bombay Foreign Post up to 6 p.m. on November 16 will be included in the despatch subject to limit of shipping space.

Passport Refused

MADRAS, November 14: Mr. V. Chakkarakai Chettiar, President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, who had planned to attend the Asian Regional Conference at the V.I.P.U. beginning at Peking on November 19, has been refused passport facilities by the Government of India, it is learnt here.

Mr. R. M. Jambekar, a leading member of the A.I.T.U.C., who is now on a tour in Europe, has been asked to represent the A.I.T.U.C. at the Peking conference.—P.T.I.

Representatives of the Mahabodhi Society left Benares for Calcutta on Sunday, carrying with them the sacred relics of Sariputta and Moggalana, the two chief disciples of Lord Buddha.

30 years of steadfast service to our countrymen!

CRESCENT INSURANCE CO. LTD.

FORT, BOMBAY.

Relieve ALL these miseries of Colds

STUFFY NOSE
SORE THROAT
TIGHT CHEST
COUGH

... with ONE simple treatment!

It's wonderful how much relief your child gets when you rub Vicks VapoRub on throat, chest and back at bedtime.

Stuffy nose clears, throat irritation is soothed, coughing stops as he inhales the healing vapours given off by VapoRub.

Throat and chest sore that feeling of tightness as VapoRub works on the skin like a warming poultice.

While your patient sleeps, VapoRub goes on working, breaks up most colds overnight.

VICKS VAPORUB

The family's Choice ...

Daurala

SWEETS & TOFFEES

They're rich in energy-giving glucose

2 lb. tin—Ideal present for good behaviour and for special occasions.

7 lb. tin—Economical size for the family.

DAURALA SUGAR WORKS, DAURALA (U. P.)

"Bentex" SMART BRACELETS

SOLD BY ALL WATCH DEALERS

SALES CORPORATION 99 C. TARDEO ROAD, BOMBAY 7.

ALWAYS DRINK THE BEST TEA

"DIAMOND" Tea 1 lb. Pkt. Rs. 1-12-6
"DAMCO" (Superior Quality) Assam Tea 1 lb. pkt. Rs. 1-15-0
"PLAZA" Darjeeling Tea 3 lbs. Tin Rs. 7-8-0. (S. tax extra).
Sold by All Provision Stores.