

FREE INDIA'S NEW CONSTITUTION

Assembly To Consider Draft Bill

SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES NOT EXPECTED

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, November 2.

FREE India's Draft Constitution, with the changes suggested by the Drafting Committee, will come up for final scrutiny and approval by the Constituent Assembly when it meets for its final session on November 4. The session is expected to last till December 9.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Minister for Law, who has been working hard during the last two weeks as Chairman of the Drafting Committee, will move consideration of the Bill embodying the constitution in a 50-page speech, elucidating the various aspects of the measure.

Among the hundreds of amendments which will be taken up after a two days' general debate only a few suggest substantial changes, most of them merely seeking drafting or technical improvements in the provisions of the Constitution.

Many suggestions put forward will become amendments only after they are submitted at the time the Assembly takes up the Bill for consideration clause by clause.

It is claimed that the Indian Constitution will be unique in many respects, incorporating the best of the federal and unitary types of constitution, elastic enough to meet the needs of peace and emergency. It is therefore suggested that very few amendments may become necessary.

Among the important amendments likely to be considered, some aim at making the Centre still stronger; others deal with the appointment of Governors.

Two Ministers of the Central Government have suggested amendments for strengthening the Centre for purposes of economic co-ordination and planning. For example, it is desired that there should be full control over the production and distribution of minerals, including petroleum, as also over inter-State river valley projects. The need for Central control over industries, particularly in an emergency, is suggested by another amendment.

GOVERNORS' APPOINTMENTS

As for the appointment of Governors, there is a suggestion that they should be nominated by the President or Premier, as against the existing provision that a panel of four persons should be elected by the Legislature, from among whom the President of the Union should select his nominee. This amendment will be opposed, as it is felt that it suggests no improvement in the matter of eliminating political influence.

The Socialists have proposed a number of amendments favouring a uni-cameral Parliament, a statutory committee to scrutinise and sanction ordinances framed by Government and prohibition of cartels and trusts.

All amendments are being published in parallel columns along with the provisions which they seek to change, in order to enable members to decide how far they are essential or practicable.

The Law Minister hopes to get the Draft Constitution passed by the Assembly before the end of the year.