

PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCES

Assembly Debate

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 23: An important provision of the draft constitution, relating to the powers of President to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament, was debated in the Constituent Assembly in the brilliantly lit hall of the Council Chamber, tonight.

The disputed article sought to arm the President with legislative powers to cope with an emergency when both the Houses of Parliament were not in session.

The Opposition, which consisted mainly of Messrs. Pocker, H. V. Kamath and Pandit Kunzru, contended that the provision sought to incorporate the very principles which the Congress had fought against for 50 years during the British regime.

DR. AMBEDKAR'S REPLY

Replying to the debate, Dr. Ambedkar said that under the existing code of law the executive had no power to deal with an emergency and this power was sought to be taken by making provision for the promulgation of an ordinance. In any case, he said, the President would always be anxious to consult Parliament. He believed that Parliament in future would be meeting more frequently than now.

(Details on page 3)