

Citizenship Rights In Free India

ARTICLES ADOPTED BY HOUSE

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, August 12.

After an imposing array of speakers from the "official" benches had met most of the points of a large number of critics, the Constituent Assembly today adopted the controversial provisions of the Draft Constitution relating to citizenship as proposed by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

During the heated, three-day debate on the Articles, 46 out of a total of 130 amendments were moved and an unusual number of speakers—about 24 in all—participated. Several members wanted the debate to continue for yet another day but the House decided on closure by 50 votes to 39 and passed the citizenship clauses before adjourning until next Thursday.

A good deal of criticism centred round the provision that persons who had returned from Pakistan under permanent permits could acquire citizenship.

PANDIT NEHRU'S PROTEST

Pandit Nehru, who intervened in the debate, spiritedly protested against the allegation that Government of India were continuing a policy of appeasing Pakistan and Muslims. "Do the critics," he asked, "mean that some kind of rule should be applied when dealing with Muslims which has nothing to do with equity?"

Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar and Dr. Ambedkar said that there was no necessary connection between citizenship rights and property. The Government had, however, given an undertaking to the people who had come under permanent permits that they could return and settle down in India. It would now amount to a breach of faith with them to take away the eligibility so accorded, they added.