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4/4/28

GANDHI ASHRAM,
TIRUCHENGODU.

March 31 1928

Dear Javaharlal Nehru,

I have received a copy of the Report of the All-Parties Conference, Delhi, & containing the Committee's report and Resolutions thereon regarding the Swaraj Constitution for India. I do not know whether the sending of the copy to me means that I may make any suggestions. Assuming that it does I desire to make only one suggestion and wish you to place it before the conference or take the matter up yourself.

I see from the proceedings that the following points are to be incorporated as fundamental parts of the constitution, and that considerations of difficulty of execution have not stood in the way of the acceptance of the principles: Viz.,

- 1) Hindustani as the common language of the whole of India.
- 2) Adult suffrage.
- 3) Equality of the sexes in political life.
- 4) Freedom of person, conscience, speech, and association.
- 5) Trade Union rights.
- 6) Provision for old age and unemployment.
- 7) Free and universal education.

I expected in this group of subjects, a fundamental article for the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating drinks and drugs.

I think we should provide for Prohibition in the Constitution itself. But I find that not only has this not been done, but among subjects classified as Provincial along with Land-Revenue is (2) Excise, that is to say, the control of manufacture, transport etc of alcoholic liquor and intoxicating drugs except opium, and the levying of excise duties etc., etc., exactly following the present Devolution rules.

It would be a great advance if the All-Parties Conference could be induced to make Total Prohibition a part of the Constitution along with Manhood Suffrage and Universal Education etc.

With kind regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

C. Rajagopalachar