

TEXT OF AGREEMENT

(Associated Press of India.)

POONA, Sept. 24.

The following is the text of the agreement arrived at between the leaders acting on behalf of the Depressed Classes and the rest of the Hindu community regarding the representation of the Depressed Classes in the legislatures, and certain other matters affecting their welfare.

- (1) There shall be seats reserved for the Depressed Classes out of the general electorates seats in the Provincial Legislatures as follows:

Madras 30;
Bombay with Sind 15;
Punjab 8;
Bihar and Orissa 18;
Central Provinces 20;
Assam 7;
Bengal 30;
United Provinces 20.

Total 148.

These figures are based on the total strength of the Provincial Councils, announced in the Prime Minister's decision.

- (2) Election to these seats shall be by joint electorates subject, however, to the following procedure:

All the members of the Depressed Classes registered in the general electoral roll in a constituency will form an electoral college, which will elect a panel of four candidates belonging to the Depressed Classes for each of such reserved seats, by the method of the single vote; the four persons getting the highest number of votes in such primary election, shall be candidates for election by the general electorate.

- (3) Representation of the Depressed Classes in the Central Legislature shall likewise be on the principle of joint electorates and reserved seats by the method of primary election in the manner provided for in Clause two above, for their representation in the Provincial Legislature.

- (4) In the Central Legislature, eighteen per cent of the seats allotted to the general electorate for British India in the said legislature shall be reserved for the Depressed Classes.

- (5) The system of primary election to a panel of candidates for election to the Central and Provincial Legislatures, as hereinbefore mentioned, shall come to an end after the first ten years, unless terminated sooner by mutual agreement under the provision of Clause six below.

- (6) The system of representation of the Depressed Classes by reserved seats in the Provincial and Central Legislatures as provided for in Clauses 1 and 4 shall continue until determined by mutual agreement between the communities concerned in the settlement.

- (7) Franchise for the Central and Provincial Legislatures for the Depressed Classes shall be as indicated in the Lothian Committee Report.

- (8) There shall be no disabilities attaching to any one on the ground of his being a member of the Depressed Classes in regard to any elections to local bodies or appointment to the Public Services. Every endeavour shall be made to secure fair representation of the Depressed Classes in these respects, subject to such educational qualifications as may be laid down for appointment to the Public Services.

- (9) In every province out of the educational grant, an adequate sum shall be earmarked for providing educational facilities to the members of the Depressed Classes.

All the leaders present in Poona, including Pandit Malaviya, Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Solanki, Rao Bahadur Sreenivasan, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. Jayakar, Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja, Mr. P. Baloo, Mr. Rajboj and Mr. Sivraj have signed the agreement.

MR. RAJAGOPALACHARI'S APPEAL

(ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA.)

POONA, Sep. 24.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar has issued an appeal to all Indians who believe in God and the efficacy of an appeal to Him, to give, this week, five minutes in the morning every day for prayer to save Mahatma Gandhi's life.