



1. What were the ideals expressed in the Objectives Resolution ?

Ans: Jawahar Lai Nehru presented the Objectives Resolution in the Constituent Assembly on 13 December, 1946 . It gave a brief account of the ideals and objectives of the Constitution. These are following:

1. India was declared an independent sovereign republic.
2. Justice, equality and fraternity were assured to all the citizens of India.
3. Adequate safeguards were provided to minorities. It also referred to the well-being of the backward and depressed classes.
4. It was made an objective that India would combine the liberal ideas of democracy with the socialist idea of economic justice.
5. India would adopt that form of government which would be acceptable to its people. No imposition from the British would be acceptable by the people of India.
6. India would work for peace and human welfare.

2. How was the term minority defined by different groups?

Ans: N.G. Ranga, a socialist who had been a leader of the peasant movement, urged that the term minorities be interpreted in economic terms. The real minorities were the poor and the downtrodden. Some considered that the real minorities were the masses of our country who were so depressed and oppressed that they were not even able to take advantage of the ordinary civil rights. Singh spoke eloquently on the need to protect the tribes, and ensure conditions that could help them come up to the level of the general population.

3. What were the arguments in favour of greater power to the provinces ?

Ans: K.Santharam, a member from the Madras defended the rights of the states in the Constituent Assembly. He emphasised the need to strengthen the states. He was not in favour of vesting more powers with the Centre. He was of the opinion the Centre would not be able to perform its duties efficiently in case it is over-burdened. The Centre will become automatically strong if all states are made stronger. He advocated that the Centre should be given less powers and states should be given more powers. Proposed allocation of powers between the Centre and States was also a matter of concern for K. Santharam. He felt that such a distribution of power would cripple the states.

4. Why did Mahatma Gandhi think Hindustani should be the national language?

Ans: In view of Mahatma Gandhi Hindustani was a language that the common people could easily understand. Hindustani was a blend of Hindi and Urdu. It was also popular among a large section of the people. Moreover, it was a composite language enriched by the interaction of diverse cultures. Words and terms from many different languages got incorporated into this language over the years. It made this language easily understandable by people from various regions.

As per Mahatma Gandhi Hindustani would be the ideal language of communication between the communities. It would help to unify Hindus and Muslims and the people from north and

south. Language came to be associated with the politics of religious identities from the end of the 19th century. But Mahatma Gandhi retained his faith in the composite character of Hindustani.

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