

PREFACE

The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949 and formally signed by the Members of the Assembly on 24th January, 1950. The Constitution came into force on 26th January, 1950 when free India declared itself a Republic. A period of sixty years has gone by since the Constitution came into force. During this period, it worked well and met the needs of an evolving polity. We marvel at the vision, farsightedness and wisdom of the great men who created this dynamic document.

The Constituent Assembly of India first met on the 9th December, 1946 and continued till 24th January, 1950. The historic task of drafting the Constitution of Independent India was undertaken in the Constitution Hall, now known as the Central Hall of Parliament House. After the Constitution of India came into force on 26th January, 1950, the Assembly ceased to exist, transforming itself into the Provisional Parliament of India until a new Parliament was constituted in 1952.

The Constituent Assembly Debates for the period December 9, 1946 to January 24, 1950 were first printed in 1950. The debates were reprinted by the Lok Sabha Secretariat in 1966, 1989, 1999, 2003 and 2009. The complete set of Debates consists of five books with an Index. There is a constant demand for these Debates from parliamentarians, research scholars and others. This has prompted us to bring out this next reprint.

To make this new reprint more useful and easier to consult, a tabular statement showing the Articles of the Constitution of India with corresponding clauses in the draft Constitution together with dates on which the respective Articles were discussed and approved has been added. It finds place in the beginning of the first book. This would enable the readers to locate the debates on various Articles with greater facility. Also, a rare group photograph of Members of Constituent Assembly of India and signatures of the Members of the Constituent Assembly reproduced from the calligraphed copy of the Constitution of India have been included for the first time in the first book.

It is hoped that this publication will be found informative and useful by all parliamentarians, research scholars, political scientists, lawyers and other readers.

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Vaisakha, 1936(Saka)
Lok Sabha

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Secretary-General