

Article 70

Mr. President : Then we come to article 70. There are two amendments of a drafting nature by Mr. Kamath, Nos. 1485 and 1486.

Shri H. V. Kamath : They are not of a drafting nature. If however you hold they are, I shall not insist on moving them.

Mr. President : There is no other amendment.

The question is :

“That article 70 stand part of the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

Article 70 was added to the Constitution.

Article 71

Mr. President : There is one amendment No. 1487 of which notice has been given. It is negative in character and so I do not allow it to be moved.

Amendment No. 1488 by Prof. Shah. This is covered by article 70 which we have already adopted.

Prof. K. T. Shah : I am not moving it, Sir.

(Amendment No. 1489 was not moved.)

Mr. President : Amendment No. 1490 by Prof. Shah.

Prof. K. T. Shah : Mr. President, Sir, I move :

“That in clause (1) of article 71, for the words ‘and inform Parliament of the cause of its summons’ the words ‘on the general state of the Union including financial proposals and other particular issues of policy he deems suitable for such address be substituted.’”

The amended article would read :

“At the commencement of every session the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the general state of the Union, including financial proposals and other particular issues of policy he deems suitable for such address.”

There is a difference in the wording here and the way I have suggested. I should like the President’s address to concern itself mainly with the general issues of policy, or the prospects before the country, rather than with the specific causes of the summons. It is the practice in the British Parliament for the King, at the opening of the Parliament, to deliver the Address from the Throne. In that, generally, the issues are mentioned. The main proposals for legislation that the Government proposes to bring forward are mentioned, and specific mention is also made of the demands and the supplies that may be expected. Now, if you say merely the “causes of the summons”, it will mean the immediate necessity of the day; whereas if freedom is left to the President to review the general state of affairs, and also to indicate the broad lines of proposed legislation and the policy that may be placed before the House, I think the latitude would be much greater. The officials review, so to say, of the country’s situation would go a long way to help the people to realise the way their Government is functioning; and also to be aware from time to time of the tasks that their Government is undertaking, and how far these tasks are being discharged.

I think that, as a non-party head of the State, for the time at any rate, representing the Republic, the President should give a general review, and not merely confine himself to the causes for which the House is being summoned and hence this amendment. I place it before the House.