

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Monday, the 23rd May 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Five of the Clock in the afternoon Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION—(*Contd.*)

Article 67-A—(*Contd.*)

Mr. President : We will take up article 67-A which was taken up the other day and was postponed.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (Bombay: General): Sir, I move for permission of the House to withdraw this article.

Mr. President : I think he did not move it and so there is no question of withdrawing it.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib (Madras: Muslim): No, it was taken up and the House is in possession of it. The honourable Member should therefore give his reasons for withdrawing it.

Mr. President : Yes, I am sorry I made a mistake. The honourable Dr. Ambedkar may give his reasons for withdrawing the article.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Sir, my reason is this. As I explained on the last occasion, we have made a provision for nominating certain persons to Parliament. The original proposal was to nominate fifteen persons; subsequently it was decided that these fifteen persons should be divided into two categories, *viz.*, twelve representing literature, science, arts, social services, and so on; and a further provision should be made for the nomination of three persons to assist and advise the Houses of Parliament in connection with any particular Bill. I feel Sir, that the provision which is already contained in article 67 which permits the President to have twelve persons nominated to Parliament would serve the purpose which underlies this new article 67-A. The services that would be rendered by the persons nominated, if article 67-A were passed into law, would be also rendered by the persons who would be nominated under article 67; and therefore the nominations under article 67-A would be merely a duplication of the nominative system covered in article 67. Besides, it is felt that in an independent Parliament which is fully sovereign and representative of the people there should not be too much of an element of nomination. We have already twelve; there may be some nominations also regarding the Anglo Indians; and it is felt that to add to that nominated quantum would be derogatory to the popular and representative character of Parliament. That is why I wish to withdraw this article 67-A.

Article 67-A was, by leave of the Assembly withdrawn

Statement *re* Articles 92 to 99

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Sir, I propose that we start now with article 100.