

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Thursday, the 13th October, 1949

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

DRAFT CONSTITUTION—(Contd.)

Part VI-A—(Contd.)

Mr. President : I think it would be better to take the other articles which are sought to be amended in connection with the States and take all the amendments, and then have the general discussion. I do not think it is necessary for Dr. Ambedkar to read the whole thing.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Bombay : General) : Sir, I move.

“That article 224 be omitted.”

“That article 225 be omitted.”

“That after article 235, the following now article be inserted, namely:—

‘235 A. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Constitution, a State for the time being specified in Part III of the First Schedule having any armed force immediately before the commencement of this Constitution may, until Parliament by law otherwise provides, continue to maintain the said force after such commencement subject to such general or special orders as the President may from time to time issue in this behalf.

Armed forces in
States in Part III of
the First Schedule.

(2) Any such armed force as is referred to in clause (1) of this article shall form part of the forces of the Union.’ ”

“That for article 236, the following article be substituted, namely:—

236. The Government of India may by agreement with the Government of any territory not being part of the territory of India undertake any executive, legislative or judicial functions vested in the Government of such territory, but every such ‘agreement shall be subject to and governed by, any law relating to the exercise of foreign jurisdiction for the time being in force,’ ”

Power of the Union to
undertake executive,
legislative or judicial
functions in relation to any
territory not being part of the
territory of India.

“That article 237 be omitted.”

“That after article 274 D, the following new articles be inserted, namely:—

‘274 DD. Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this Part the President may enter into an agreement with a State for the time being specified in Part III of the First Schedule with respect to the levy and collection of any tax or duty leviable by the State on Goods imported into the State from other States or on goods exported from the State to other States, and any agreement entered into under this article shall continue in force for such period not exceeding ten years from the commencement of this Constitution as may be specified in the agreement :

Power of certain State in Part
III of the First Schedule to
impose restrictions on trade
and commerce by the levy of
certain taxes and duties on
goods imported into or
exported from such State.

[Shri R. K. Sidhwa]

exist. With these words, Sir, I commend both the amendments Nos. 246 and 252 for the acceptance of the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (United Provinces : General) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in amendment No. 220 of List VII (Second Week), in clause (2) of the proposed new article 235A, the words ‘and the Union shall bear the expenses thereof’ be added at the end.”

This amendment No. 220 says :

“Notwithstanding anything contained in this Constitution, a State for the time being specified in Part III of the First Schedule having any armed force immediately before the commencement of this Constitution may, until Parliament by law otherwise provides, continue to maintain the said force after such commencement subject to such general or special orders as the President may from time to time issue in this behalf.

(2) Any such armed force as is referred to in clause (1) of this article shall form part of the forces of the Union.”

The question arises, who shall bear the costs ? In the first part it is said that until Parliament otherwise decides, the armed force shall be maintained by the State itself. In part 2 it is said that armed force shall form part of the forces of the Union. There is some discrepancy between the two. I personally feel, Sir, that what is intended is that very soon we shall have all the forces under the control of the Union and until Parliament passes a law to that effect, they continue to remain as they are. I think as they become part of the forces of the Union, the expenses should be borne by the Union and they should be under the control and discipline of the Union as is intended by clause (2). In fact, many of the States may not be able to provide for the maintenance of these forces. I, therefore, think that even though it may take some time for the Parliament to pass a law taking over all these forces, still *de facto* the forces must come to the Union and the expenses thereof must also be borne by the Union.

I have also given notice of amendments 303, 304 and 305. Amendment No. 303 refers to article 274 DD and says :

“That in amendment No. 223 of List VII (Second Week), in the proposed new article 274 DD, after the words ‘the President’ where they occur for the first time, the words subject to the approval of the Parliament be inserted.”

Article 274 DD says : “Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this part the President may enter into an agreement with a State..... etc.” What I want is that this power which is being given to the President to enter into financial agreements with the States, especially when agreements must be subject to the approval of Parliament. Therefore, I want to introduce these words.

Then Sir, article 274 DDD says : “Nothing in articles 274A and 274 C of this Constitution shall affect the provisions of any existing law except in so far as the President may by order otherwise provide.” To this, my amendment is :

“That in amendment No. 223 of List VII (Second Week), in the proposed new article 274 DDD, for the words ‘President may by order’ the words ‘Parliament may by law’ be substituted.”

What I want is that here also for the words “the President may by order provide”, the words “Parliament may by law provide”, be substituted. My only argument is that I do not want that this power should be given to the President Which means the Cabinet, but it should be given to Parliament especially in matters of such importance.