

## CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

*Tuesday, the 23rd November, 1948*

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock, Mr. Vice-President (Dr. H. C. Mookherjee), in the Chair.

### DRAFT CONSTITUTION—(Contd.)

#### Article 32

**Shri Syamanandan Sahaya** (Bihar : General): Sir, I will move amendments Nos. 933 and 934 together with your permission. I move:

“(i) That in the article 32 after the word ‘education’ a comma and the words ‘to medical aid’ be added; and

(b) that for the words ‘of undeserved want’ the words ‘deserving relief’ be substituted.”

This part deals with directives to the Government in power and the article deals with different aspects of social relief and other amenities which the State should strive to secure for the well being of the people. These include the right to work, education, public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness, disablement and other “cases of undeserved want”. The acceptance of my amendment would give the State an added responsibility of medical relief also.

In the second amendment, although the words “undeserved want” may have been used in other constitutions, I submit that the words “deserving relief”, although not new to the language of constitutions, expresses the idea better and should be accepted.

With the conditions of health and the figures of mortality in this country as also the duration of life according to actuarial statistics I submit that special attention should be devoted to medical aid.

I do not think the amendment requires much argument to support it. Sir, I move.

**Shri H. V. Kamath** (C. P. & Berar: General): Mr. Vice-President, I move my amendment No. 936 as amended by my amendment No. 69 in List II. If the two are taken together, my intention will be very clear. In effect my amendment will substitute the word ‘State’ for the word ‘public’ occurring in this article. I find that provision as regards food, clothing, shelter and medical aid are covered by article 38 which seeks to raise the standard of living and provide for public health and such other amenities. I think that my friend Mr. Syamanandan Sahaya’s amendment as regards medical aid is also covered by the same article. There is no need to include these provisions as regards food, clothing, medical aid, etc. specifically in this article.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** (Bombay: General): Sir, I oppose the amendments.

**Mr. Vice-President** (Dr. H. C. Mookherjee): I put the amendments to vote. Amendments Nos. 933 and 934, and 936 as further amended, were negatived,

**Mr. Vice-President :** I shall now put article 32 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That article 32 stand part of the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

Article 32 was added to the Constitution.

### Article 33

**Mr. Vice-President :** The House will now take up article 33 for consideration.

**Shri V. I. Muniswamy Pillai** (Madras: General) : I am not moving my amendment No. 940 as the subject-matter relates to the Schedules.

**Mr. Vice-President :** I shall now put article 33 to the vote of the House. The question is:

“That article 33 stand part of the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

Article 33 was added to the Constitution.

### Article 34

**Mr. Vice-President :** The House will now take article 34 into consideration.

(Amendments Nos. 938 to 947 were not moved.)

**Shri Mahavir Tyagi** (United Provinces: General): Sir, I beg to move:

“That article 34 be numbered as 34(1) and the following new clause be inserted after clause (1) so re-numbered:

‘(2) The State shall encourage the use of Swadeshi articles and promote cottage industries, especially in the rural areas with a view to making as far as possible those areas self-sufficient’.”

In moving this amendment I wish to bring to the notice of the House the fact that the condition of rural areas is very bad today. In fact rural areas have been depleted, and deliberately deprived and made devoid of all their old initiative and incentive to work. The conditions in the villages are so bad that the artisan classes have all practically come to the towns. Even a barber, if he is good at razor, does not stay in the village but goes to towns where more money can be had. Attendance on villagers does not enable him to earn his daily bread. He goes to the town and opens a saloon. The village carpenter also does the same; if he knows his job well. He goes to town and easily earns Rs. 5 or 6 a day. Masons do likewise and also the tailors. All the craftsmen flock to towns abandoning their village homes. I want to put it before the House that, under these conditions, when the villagers have been reduced to the position of carrying their dirty clothes to the town to be washed, what will happen to three-fourths of our population living in the villages? We have put it on record that what we want is economic democracy. How will economic democracy come about in the existing state of affairs in the rural areas?

We have given the villager only the right of vote. And this too we have given him only to take back after every five years—he will give us his vote. He is only the custodian of the right of vote; and we being his leaders he must return the vote to us at the time of elections. We are always their leaders. Sir, I have had experience of Legislative Assemblies for the last ten or twelve years and I know that we are not treating the villagers fairly. All budget amounts are mostly spent in towns. Only in the towns you have electricity and all sorts of other amenities. Their roads are cemented. There is public health only in the towns. But the villagers are totally neglected. Every man who has the least initiative comes to the towns. All intelligence has come away and now it is only the sluggish people who are left in the villages. Anyone who has passed the Matriculation Examination comes to the towns and employs himself in some service or other. So the villages are