

[Mr. President]

1. The Sikh Backward Classes, viz., Mazhabis, Kabirpanthis, Ramdasias, Baurias, Sikligars etc. should be given the same privileges in regard to representation in the Legislatures and other Political concessions in the East Punjab and PEPSU as may be provided for the Scheduled Castes. For this purpose, either these Classes may be included in the Scheduled Of Scheduled Castes enumerated in the Draft Constitution or seats may be reserved for them on population basis out of the quota reserved for Sikhs.

2. In the East Punjab, seats should be reserved for Sikhs according to their population with right to contest additional seats.

3. In Provinces other than the East Punjab and the Centre, the Sikh Minorities where they are entitled to representation on the strength of their numbers should have seats reserved for them and when adequate numbers are not returned by election, their strength should be made good by nomination.

4. The Sikhs will be prepared to give up reservation in the East Punjab if Sikh and Hindu Scheduled Castes are lumped together and seats reserved for them on the strength of their population.

In case these proposals are not accepted, the whole question of safeguards for Sikh Minorities may be referred to arbitration in accordance with the assurances given by the Congress.

(Sd.) Ujjal Singh
(Sd.) Joginder Singh Mann
(Sd.) Gurbachan Singh Bajwa,

Dated the 10th May 1949.

I do not desire to make any comment. If both the documents are read together, Members will be able to draw their own inferences.

Article 48

Mr. President : We shall now take up the various articles which are mentioned in the Order paper today beginning with article 48. These are all in the nature of amendments to articles which have already been accepted. Wherever necessary, I suppose the formal permission of the House will be taken altering the decisions previously taken. Article 48.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras : General) : Mr. President, Sir, from Article 48 till practically the end of article 303 of the First Schedule, all of them, excepting 273A and 302 AA. require reopening of articles that have been passed already and I therefore submit that the permission of the House for reopening these articles might be taken, if the Chair so wishes.

Mr. President : The question is:

“That the House give leave for reopening these decisions.

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Mr. President, I move—

“That in clause (3) of article 48, for the words ‘The President shall have an official residence’ the words ‘The President shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of his official residences’ be substituted.”

Sir, I see that my Friend Mr. Sidhva has an amendment to my amendment. But I would invite his attention to the amendment this House has accepted yesterday in respect of Part VIA—the amendment moved by any friend the Honourable Santhanam—which reads like this :

“Unless he has his own residence in the capital of his State, the Rajpramukh shall be entitled to the use of an official residence without payment of rent, and there shall be paid to the Rajpramukh such allowances . . . etc.”

Subsequently the article relating to the Governors had to be brought into line with this provision. This was accepted by the House yesterday. That is my reason for bringing forward this amendment. I do hope Mr. Sidhva will

Shri H. V. Kamath : Dr. Ambedkar was quite clear when he gave his answer to me the other day, but now he seems to have some doubt in his own mind, and he has come now with an amendment seeking to provide residences to Governors and the President, without payment of rent. We should, proceeding logically, provide rent-free accommodation to Ministers also.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Sir, if I may say a word. This amendment is merely consequential or analogous to the provision we have made with regard to the Rajpramukhs. In the clauses that were moved the other day with regard to the residences of Rajpramukhs, we have definitely stated that they will be rent-free. On comparing the similar clauses relating to the Governors, we found that somehow there was a slip and we did not mention rent-free houses. It is to make good that lacuna, and to bring the cases of the Governors and the President on the same footing as the Rajpramukhs that this amendment is needed.

With regard to the question of Ministers, that will be regulated by law made by Parliament. Whether Parliament will be prepared to give them salary with house, and if with house, whether it will be free of rent or with rent, are all matters that will be regulated by Parliament, because the offices of Ministers are political offices dependent upon the goodwill and the confidence of the House, and it seems to me that Mr. Kamath will very easily understand that it would be riot proper to remove the Ministers from the purview and jurisdiction of Parliament.

Mr. President : I would like to put it to vote.

The question is:

“That in clause (3) of article 48, for the Words ‘The President shall have an official residence, the words ‘The President shall be entitled to the use of the Government House ,without payment of rent’ be substituted.”

The amendment was negatived.

Mr. President : Then I put the amendment moved by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. The question is:

“That in clause (3) of article 48, for the words ‘The President shall have an official residence’ the words ‘The President shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of his official residences’ be substituted.”

The amendment was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Sir, I move amendment No. 360.

“That clause (5a) of article 62 be omitted.”

The reason for this is, as I told the House the other day on behalf of Dr. Ambedkar, that we do not propose to move Schedule III A and also the Schedule which deals with Instructions to Governors. The clause in question reads thus: “ (5a) In the choice of his ministers and in the exercise of his other functions under this constitution, the President shall be generally guided by Instructions set out in Schedule III A.” Actually, since Schedule III A is not moved, this clause becomes superfluous. Therefore I have moved for its omission.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, you might remember that some months ago you raised the important point whether the President would always be bound to accept the advice of his Council of Ministers. Our Constitution is silent on that point. It only says that there shall be a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President. Dr. Ambedkar at that time undertook to insert some provision somewhere in the Constitution in order to make this point clear.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

was passed by the House. The intention is more or less self-explanatory. It is a question of empowering the President to refer a matter like the one mentioned in the amendment to the Supreme Court for its opinion and for the Supreme Court to report to the President its opinion thereon and it varies vitally from the provision of article 119 as it stands now. It is found necessary in circumstances now present in view of the enlargement of the scope of the Constitution by the additions that have since been made.

Mr. President : The question is:

“That article 119 be renumbered as clause (1) of article 119, and to the said article as so renumbered the following clause be added:—

- ‘(2) The President may notwithstanding anything contained in clause (i) of the proviso to article 109 of this Constitution, refer a dispute of the kind mentioned in the said clause to the Supreme Court for opinion and the Supreme Court may’ after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon.’”

The amendment was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Sir, I move :

“That in clause (3) of article 135, for the words ‘shall have an official residence’ the words ‘shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of his official residences’ be substituted.”

This refers to the Governor. The amendment to article 48 referred to the President and it has been accepted by the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath : In my humble judgment there is a little discrepancy here. We have provided rent-free residences to the President and the Judges of the Supreme Court at the Centre. Similarly, on the same reasoning, should we not provide rent-free residences to the Governor and the High Court Judges? Why do we provide it for the Governor only?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Logic cannot be employed to make a proposition absurd.

Mr. President : The question does not arise here. The question is:

“That in clause (3) of article 135, for the words ‘shall have an official residence’ the words ‘shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of his official residences’ be substituted.”

The amendment was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Mr. President, Sir, I move:

“That in clause (3) of article 135, for the words ‘the Legislature of the State the word ‘Parliament’ be substituted.”

The appointment of the Governor is now being made by the President. It is therefore felt that it would not be proper to leave his emoluments to be decided by the legislature of the State as it originally was when we had intended that the Governor should be elected. This should have been amended earlier, but we found that we could do it only at the last stage. Therefore, I am moving that the emoluments of the Governor shall be determined by Parliament by law.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena : I am glad that the change is being made. I would only like to know who will pay the salary of the Governor—will it come out of the provincial exchequer or the Central exchequer ?