

would not mean anything at all. Even the article lays the whole stress on this latter portion by centralising attention through the words ‘in particular’ of the ‘Scheduled Castes’.

I may not be misunderstood in this respect. I do not grudge this special care of the State being directed towards “Scheduled Castes”. Rather, I would support even greater concessions being given and more attention being paid to backward classes. My only object is that there should be no discrimination. That is not the intention of the article either. But, as I have said, so far the “Scheduled Castes” have been understood by general masses to exclude the members of the same castes professing Sikh religion. We should be particular in guaranteeing against any misconstruction being placed or any discrimination being exercised by those who would be responsible for actual working of it. Under the present article, it is the “educational and economic interests” that are to be promoted and therefore it should be made clear that it is to be done for all backward classes, and not for persons professing this or that particular religion or belief. I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

Shri A. V. Thakkar (United States of Kathiawar : Saurashtra): Sir, I beg to move this amendment (983) which asks for the inclusion of the backward castes among Hindus and among Muslims.....

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : May I just make a statement? I believe both these amendments dealing with the backward classes, etc. would be more appropriate to the Schedule and could be better considered when we dealt with the Schedule. I would suggest that the consideration of these amendments may be postponed.

Shri A. V. Thakkar : My amendment seeks to lay down certain principles.....

Mr. Vice-President : Dr. Ambedkar proposes to give the fullest possible consideration to these in the Schedule.

Shri A. V. Thakkar : Does he agree to include all backward classes?

Mr. Vice-President : He can hardly agree to anything now. The matter is open to discussion later.

Shri A. V. Thakkar : Then I do not move my amendment now.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad : Sir, I am not moving my amendment No. 985. It merely seeks to use capital letters in the case of the Scheduled Castes. I would respectfully draw the attention of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to article 303 (1), items (w) and (x) on page 147 of the Draft Constitution. We have there specified two definitions, ‘Scheduled Castes’ and ‘Scheduled Tribes’. ‘Scheduled Castes’ have everywhere been spelt with capital letters, but ‘Scheduled tribes’ have been spelt with small letters.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : We shall consider that.

Sardar Hukam Singh : I beg leave to withdraw my amendment. The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Vice-President : I shall now put article 37 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That article 37 do stand part of the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

Article 37 was added to the Constitution.

Article 38

Mr. Vice-President : The House will now take up article 38 for consideration.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi : Sir, in connection with my amendment No. 999, I have given notice of another amendment (71 in List II) after consulting some of my friends. I hope Mr. Aziz Ahmed Khan who has his own amendment to this article will agree with my amendment. I do not want to make any speech in moving this amendment. Everybody appreciates the value of prohibition. Hence I simply move amendment No. 71 in List II:

“That at the end of article 38, the words ‘and shall endeavour to bring about the prohibition of the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health’ be inserted.”

Sir, for this attempt of mine I am conscious of the abuses that will be hurled on me by the dry mouths of those who have to stop drinking. I am also aware of the blessing that will be showered on me by the wives of those who will benefit by the removal of this evil. I should only wish “good luck” to the country in case this amendment is accepted.

An Honourable Member : It is already past 1 o’clock.

Mr. Vice-President : Somebody is surely to blame. Here in this time-piece it is one minute to one.

The House stands adjourned till 10 A. M. tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Wednesday, the 24th November 1948.
