

**Mr. President :** The question is:

“That in amendment No. 118 of List III (Eighth Week), clause (a) of the proviso to the proposed article 304 be deleted.”

The amendment was negatived.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh :** I beg to withdraw my other amendment No. 212.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Mr. President :** The question is :

“That in amendment No. 207 of List V (Eighth Week), in the proposed Proviso to article 304, for the words ‘Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States for the time being specified in Parts I and III of the First Schedule by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures before the Bill making provision for such amendment is presented to the President for assent’ the word ‘electorate’ be substituted.”

The amendment was negatived.

**Mr. President :** I think these are all the amendments. The question is

“That proposed article 304 as amended, stand part of the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

Article 304, as amended, was added to the Constitution.

**Shri Brajeshwar Prasad :** Sir, now the time is seven o’clock.

**Seth Govind Das :** There is so much still to be done that I do not think that we shall be able to finish it. So I propose that either we should sit at nine o’clock tonight and go on till twelve o’clock or we, may sit tomorrow morning.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar :** We have got only three articles.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari :** We have only three articles, two of which are of a formal nature.

**Mr. President :** I think it would be very inconvenient to adjourn now and come back again to the House. So we have to sit until we finish or we have to sit tomorrow.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar :** We have got two or three article and I am sure they are non-contentious and it would not take even half-an-hour.

**Seth Govind Das :** I do not think we can finish in one hour. There is the question of the name of the country in article 1 to be settled. I do not think we shall be able to finish all these.

**Mr. President :** The majority of the House seems to think that we shall continue. Am I correct?

**Many Honourable Members :** Yes, Sir.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar :** We can finish the thing.

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad :** It cannot be done. There is article 1 and unless the sweets are, arranged by Dr. Ambedkar, the *namkaranam* ceremony cannot be done today.

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#### Article 99

**Mr. President :** Then we shall take articles 99 and 184.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar :** Sir, I move

“That for article 99, the following article be substituted:—

99. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in Part XIV A of this constitution but subject to the provisions of article 301 F thereof, business in Parliament shall be transacted in Hindi or in English.

Provided that the Chairman of the Council of States or Speaker of the House of the People or person acting as such, as the case may be, may permit any member, who cannot adequately express himself in either of the languages aforesaid to address the House in his mother-tongue.

(2) Unless Parliament by law otherwise provides, this article shall, after the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this Constitution, have effect as if the words ‘or in English’ were omitted therefrom.”

May I move the other one also. This is an analogous thing.

**Mr. President :** I suppose the argument will be the same in respect of both.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar :** They are substantially the same.

**Mr. President :** I shall put them separately to vote.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar :** We can have one discussion. So far as the discussion is concerned, the argument will be more or less the same Sir, I move :

“That for article 184, the following article be substituted

184. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in Part XIV A of this Constitution but subject to the provisions of article 301 F thereof, business in the Legislature of a State shall be transacted in the official language or languages of the State or in Hindi or in English.

Provided that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or Chairman of the Legislative Council or person acting as such, as the case may be, may permit any member who cannot adequately express himself in any of the languages aforesaid to address the House in his mother tongue.

(2) Unless the Legislature of the State otherwise provides, this article shall, after the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this Constitution, have effect as if the words ‘or in English’ were omitted therefrom.”

Sir, I think no observations are necessary. The articles are very clear in themselves.

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad :** Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move:

“That with reference to amendment No. 1777 of the List of amendments (Volume 1), in clause (1) of article 99, after the word ‘Hindi’ the words ‘or Bengali or any of the regional languages be inserted.’ ”

**Mr. President :** Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, how do you fit in the amendment which you have read now?

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad :** This will fit in after the word ‘Hindi’.

**Mr. President :** Yes.

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad :** Sir, I move:

“That with reference to amendment No. 2507 of the List of Amendments (Volume 1), in clause (1) of article 184, for the words ‘language or languages generally used in that State’, the words ‘the regional language or languages of the State’ be substituted.”

**An Honourable Member :** These amendments have all lapsed.

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad :** I submit that it should be the other way. The amendment proposed by Dr. Ambedkar does not fit in with my amendments. That is the real truth. This amendment was sent long before and the Drafting Committee’s amendment has come to us as a surprise. However, I should

With regard to my amendment to article 184, the same principle also applies. There may be one regional language or more regional languages and those regional languages should be allowed to be used in the legislatures. The point which I want to make is that the Speaker or President has much latitude in allowing any member to speak a language with which he is familiar provided he does not know the official language. It gives some discretion to the President or the Speaker to allow the use of the regional languages who may refuse to allow anyone to speak in these languages. If you do not allow the regional languages also to develop, their contribution towards the development of the official language will be very small.

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad :** I shall ask the Drafting Committee to consider that. This is only a suggestion; it should fit in somehow. I know this is only a pious sentiment on my part because it is not going to be accepted.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar :** No, No. The whole question has been discussed and decided.

In supporting this article, I am reminded of what happened twenty-two years ago. In 1927 I moved a resolution on this subject in the Council of State. I do not want to take your time by reading out that resolution. In it a demand was made that permission should be given to speak in the House in Hindi and Urdu together with English, but that demand was rejected. I was then twenty-eight or twenty-nine years of age. Today when I think of this incident that occurred about twenty two years ago the subsequent events that occurred during the last twenty two years come flooding into my mind; I hope that henceforth at least the Hindi speaking people and all those who can speak Hindi but who for reasons best known to them, are proud of speaking in English, after the achievement of freedom, will consider the advisability of speaking in Hindi in free India when the official language will be Hindi after the adoption of the article and in any case it would not be English. If

\*[            ] Translation of Hindustani Speech.

[Seth Govind Das]

they do not do so, the Press of this country will certainly criticise them adversely for this omission. The place where Hindi can be propagated in a free way is our Parliament and I hope, that Hindi will take its rightful place in it.

In the end, I want to add that the people of this country came into contact with political movements after the assumption of leadership by Mahatma Gandhi, and if you want that they should come in contact with the proceedings of their Parliament also, it is necessary they should be conducted in a language which is understood by the majority of the people in our country. With these words I whole heartedly support these two articles moved by Dr. Ambedkar.]

**Several Honourable Members :** The question be now put.

**Mr. President :** Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, do you wish your amendments to be put to vote?

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad :** I beg leave to withdraw them, Sir.

The amendments were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Mr. President :** The question is :

“That for article 99, the following article be substituted :—

‘99. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in Part XIV A of this Constitution but subject to the provisions Language to be used in of article 301 F thereof, business in Parliament shall be transacted in Hindi or Parliament in English :

Provided that the Chairman of the Council of States or Speaker of the House of the People or person acting as such, as the case may be, may permit any member, who cannot adequately express himself in either of the languages aforesaid to address the House in his mother-tongue.

(2) Unless Parliament by law otherwise, provides, this article shall, after the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this Constitution, have effect as if the words ‘or in English’ were omitted therefrom.’ ”

The amendment was adopted.

**Mr. President :** The question is:

“That for article 184, the following article be substituted:

184. (1 ) Notwithstanding anything contained in Part XIV A of this Constitution but subject to the Language to be used in the provisions of article 301 F thereof, business in the Legislature of a State shall be transacted in the official language or languages of the State or in Hindi or Legislatures of States in English :

Provided that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or Chairman of the Legislative Council or person acting as such, as the case may be, may permit any member who cannot adequately express himself in any of the languages aforesaid to address the House in his mother-tongue.

(2) Unless the Legislature of the State otherwise provides this article shall, after the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this Constitution, have effect as if the words ‘or in English’ were omitted therefrom.’ ”

The amendment was adopted.

**Mr. President :** The question is :

“That articles 99 and 184, as amended, stand part of the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

Articles 99 and 184, as amended, were added to the Constitution.