

Mr. President : The question is:

“That proposed article 248-B stand part of the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

New article 248-B was added to the Constitution.

Article 249

Mr. President : We now come to article 249.

But before that, there is an amendment No. 200—regarding the heading, by Dr. Ambedkar.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Sit, I move:

“That above article 249, the following sub-heading be inserted :—

‘Distribution of Revenues between the Union and the States.’”

Mr. President : Does any one wish to say anything about it ?

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad : About what ?

Mr. President : About amendment No. 200 viz.,

“That the above article 249, the following sub-heading be inserted:—

‘Distribution of Revenues between the Union and the States.’”

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad : I would like to speak on article 249.

Mr. President : We are not taking up the article-only the heading. I take it that it is accepted. The question is :

“That above article 249, the following sub-heading be inserted :—

‘Distribution of Revenues between the Union and the States.’”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : Now we take up article 249. There are some amendments of which notice has been given. They may be found at page 296 of the second volume of amendments.

(Amendments Nos. 2837 to 2840 were not moved.)

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

“That in clause (2) of article 249, the words ‘in that year’ be deleted.”

May I also move Nos. 69 and 70?

Mr. President : Yes.

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

“That in clause (1) of article 249, after the words ‘such stamp duties’ the words ‘as are imposed under any law made by Parliament’ be inserted.”

Sir, I also move :

“That in clause (2) of article 249, for the words ‘Revenues of India’ the words ‘Consolidated Fund of India’ be substituted.”

(Amendment No. 68 was not moved.)

Mr. President : The article and amendments are now open to discussion.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Is the discussion on this article to proceed now ?

Mr. President : Yes, in five Minutes more we shall have at least one speech today.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad : Sir, I am opposed to the general principles of article 249. I am not in favour of the existing or the proposed system of distribution of revenues between the Union and the States. I am in favour of two propositions, which I want to lay down before the House. The first proposition is, that all duties and taxes should be levied, collected and appropriated by the Government of India. The provinces should have no power of levying taxes, or collecting it, or of appropriating it. There should be no financial autonomy in this sphere because of a very valid political reason, which I shall mention afterwards.

The second principle which I want to lay down is that there should be an independent authority at the Centre to allocate funds between the different units in accordance with the needs of each province. That independent authority, Sir, may either be the President or the Parliament or a Finance Commission. I am not in favour of the existing system because, Sir, it is opposed to the basic concept of nationalism. The meaning of nationalism, Sir, is that every inch of the territory is as much mine as it is yours.

The second meaning of nationalism is that the total wealth of the country belongs to each and every citizen in an equal measure. The present system of distribution of revenue leads to inequality between man and man, between one province and another. Therefore, I am opposed to the present system of distribution of revenue. I am in favour of scrapping the whole thing.

Having due regard to the facts of our political life, I would suggest that the President should allocate funds. I want to see that day when the question of allocation of funds would not arise as there would be no Provinces left. Financial autonomy is dangerous, because it will pave the way for the establishment of independent States. This is the last straw on the camel's back. Already ample, powers have been vested in the provinces and this is the only method by which we can keep the provinces under the subordination, direction and control of the Government of India. If a big province like Bombay or Madras (I am sorry to say this) is vested with financial autonomy, what will be the result ? Tomorrow under the stress of some political movement these two provinces might declare their independence. Therefore I want that provincial ministers should come over here before the Government of India and place their case for allocation of funds, so that they may remain under the control of the Government of India.

Mr. President : A suggestion has been made that we might not sit on Monday next on account of Sarvan Purnima. We cannot afford to lose one day. I therefore suggest that we sit on that day from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. that afternoon.

The Assembly then adjourned till Nine of the Clock on Friday the 5th August 1949.
