

Thursday, 12th December, 1946

Volume I



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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

President:

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD.

Temporary Chairman:

DR. SACHCHIDANAND SINHA.

Constitutional Adviser:

SIR B.N. RAU, C.I.E.

Secretary:

SHRI H.V.R. IENGAR, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Deputy Secretary:

MR. B.F.H.B. TYABJI, I.C.S.

Under Secretary:

KHAN BAHADUR S.G. HASNAIN.

Assistant Secretary:

MR. K.V. PADMANABHAN.

Marshal:

SUBEDAR MAJOR HARBANS LAL JAIDKA.

CONTENTS

Volume I—9th to 23rd December 1946

	PAGES		PAGES
Monday, 9th December, 1946—		Friday, 13th December, 1946—	
Election of Temporary Chairman	1	Resolution <i>re.</i> Aims and Objects	57—70
Messages of Goodwill	1—2	Monday, 16th December, 1946—	
Election Petition from Khan Abdus Samad Khan of British Baluchistan	2	Resolution <i>re.</i> Aims and Objects	71—90
Chairman's Inaugural address	2—7	Tuesday, 17th December, 1946—	
Nomination of Deputy Chairman	7—8	Resolution <i>re.</i> Aims and Objects	91—109
Death of Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut	8	Wednesday, 18th December, 1946—	
Presentation of Credentials and signing of the Register	8—14	Programme of Business	111—113
Tuesday, 10th December, 1946—		Resolution <i>re.</i> Aims and Objects	113—130
Procedure for the Election of the Permanent Chairman	15—18	Thursday, 19th December, 1946—	
Provisional adoption of Central Legislative Assembly Rules and Standing Orders	18—21	Programmes of Business	131—135
Confirmation of existing organisation of Constituent Assembly Office	21	Resolution <i>re.</i> Aims and Objects	133—153
Committee on Rules of Procedure ...	21—34	Saturday, 21st December, 1946—	
Announcement <i>re.</i> Nominations for Chairman and Committee	34	Presentation of Credentials and signing of the Register	155
Wednesday, 11th December, 1946—		Resolution <i>re.</i> Election of Constituent Assembly Negotiating Committee—Adopted	155—166
Reply to messages of Greetings to the Constituent Assembly	35	Resolution <i>re.</i> Aims and Objects—Discussion suspended	166—67
Election of the Permanent Chairman	35—36	Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Rules of Procedure	167—172
Congratulations to the Permanent Chairman	36—52	Proceedings in Camera (Not Printed)	173—262
Election of the Committee for Rules of Procedure	52—53	Monday, 23rd December, 1946—	
Thursday, 12th December, 1946—		Rules of Procedure—Adopted	263
Resolution on Aims and Objects of the Assembly by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru—Discussion postponed	55—56	Election of Committees—	
		Credentials Committee	264
		House Committee	264
		Finance and Staff Committee	264—265
		President's statement regarding Reference to Federal Court, the Statement of May, 16 for interpretation	265

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Thursday, the 12th December, 1946

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

Mr. Chairman: If there are any Members who have not yet signed the Register, they may do so now.

(Nobody came forward.)

It seems there is nobody who has not yet signed. We now proceed to the next item. The first item that we have is a Resolution by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. I understand that there are some Members who feel that they have not had sufficient time to consider this important Resolution. There is no doubt that the Resolution is a very important one and I would not like any Member to feel that he has not had sufficient time to consider it fully. If the House so desires, I am prepared to adjourn this discussion till tomorrow.

Hon'ble Members: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Then there is another matter in this connection in regard to which I should like the advice of the House. We have got a Rules Committee and its members should meet to prepare the Rules which they will place before us. They should have time separate from the general session of the Assembly. If you agree, they will meet after this House is adjourned and we shall do as much as we can do. But if it cannot complete the work, the Rules Committee will have to meet tomorrow, and I would like to know whether the House would like to sit in the morning from 11 or in the afternoon because I would suggest that we should have one session only, either in the morning or afternoon, so that the Rules Committee may get the other half of the day for its work. If the House want the morning session, then we can meet in the morning.

Some Hon'ble Members: We want morning sessions.

Some Hon'ble Members: Afternoon sessions.

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid in this matter it is difficult for me to come to a decision. I have to trouble the members to raise their hands—those who would like the morning sessions may please raise their hands.

(More members raised their hands in favour of the morning session.)

It seems the morning session is preferred by a large number of people. We shall have the session at 11 tomorrow morning concerning this Resolution and in the afternoon we may have, if necessary a meeting of the Rules Committee. If any Members have got any amendment to the Resolution to move, I would request them to hand over the amendments to the Secretary in the course of the day and we shall take up the discussion tomorrow. The Secretary will take care, if possible, to circulate the amendments also to Members.

An Hon'ble Member: Are we sitting on Saturday?

Mr. Chairman: I think we should be sitting on Saturday. That is my view but that is entirely in the hands of the House. I think we will be sitting on Saturday too.

The Hon'ble Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (United Provinces: General): I think we should not meet on Saturday. Let us have a day off for quiet discussions of the problems between ourselves.

Shri Sri Prakasa (United Provinces: General): I think we should not meet on Sundays and that should be sufficient for quiet discussions for Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.

Mr. Chairman: We shall consider that tomorrow. So far as the House is concerned, I think we have to adjourn now till 11 A.M. tomorrow and I would like the Members of the Rules Committee to meet say half-an-hour later. In the meantime we shall fix up some room where they shall meet.

The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour (C. P. and Berar: General): It seems to me that it will serve a useful purpose if the Hon'ble Mover of the Resolution formally moves and expresses his views to enable the Members here to understand the full import of the Resolution, so that we can frame amendments accordingly and these can be taken up tomorrow or the day after.

Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): The House has, already been adjourned.

Mr. Chairman: Sir Hari Singh Gour has suggested that the Resolution might be moved by the Mover today who in his speech could explain his own point of view so that the other Members may be in possession of that and the discussion might take place tomorrow. I had myself at first thought of that but then I felt that the members would like to consider the whole thing tomorrow.

Some Hon'ble Members: Tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: There seems to be a difference of opinion and I do not like to take a vote on this question especially as I have already declared the House adjourned. So we shall now adjourn. The House stands adjourned till tomorrow, 11 O'Clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock, on Friday, the 13th December, 1946.