



## DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR'S LAST SPEECH IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: AN OVERVIEW

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### ABSTRACT

*Dr. Ambedkar was a champion of human rights. First Indian Law Minister, Dr. BR Ambedkar, was a key figure in drafting the nation's constitution. At the same time, he was one of the most prominent personalities in India's fight against social inequality. To outline Dr. Ambedkar's last address to the Constituent Assembly, the author has written this article.*

**KEYWORDS:** Dr. Ambedkar last words Constituent Assembly.

### INTRODUCTION:-

People in a democracy have the freedom to build their government, free from outside influence. People have a fundamental right to create their constitution, reflecting their values, ethics, and goals. A democratic and independent nation's constitution is typically drafted by a body of members elected by the entire populace. It is the Constituent Assembly's job to examine and approve a Constitution when duly elected by the people.

The Philadelphia Convention in 1787 was the first elected gathering to establish a written constitution in modern times. The rise of India's National Movement is closely tied to the formation of the Constituent Assembly. Our quest for freedom culminated in India's constitution, which resulted from that effort. Since India's Congress adopted the Swaraj Resolution in 1905 as the voice of Indian public opinion, citizens in India have been fighting for the freedom to write their constitutions as part of a broader national movement for self-rule. In the resistance to the 1919 Act, the concept of a Constituent Assembly in which Indians themselves would draught a Constitution for a free and independent India was implicit. For the first time, Indians attempted to draught a constitution for their country in the Nehru Report. The paper used the concept of Dominion status with a government that is entirely accountable on the parliamentary model. In a lengthy statement, the Congress Working Committee re-launched the call for a constituent assembly at the onset of World War II.

The Constituent Assembly was informed of Gandhi's thoughts during the discussion on the design of the Constitution for Free India. To him, it was clear that the Assembly would have the freedom to determine whether India should remain an independent country or remain under British dominion; yet, the Indian Congress insisted on its insistence for complete independence.

After the Second World War, the British government agreed to support India's desire to establish a Constituent Assembly via the Cabinet mission. Clement Attlee dispatched a ministerial delegation to meet with Indian politicians to expedite setting a constitution for India.

In 1946, the Cabinet Mission Plan formed the Constituent Assembly, not a sovereign entity. As the Constituent Assembly became a sovereign body and all of the limits placed by the Cabinet's mission plan rose, its power was severely curtailed in terms of fundamental principles and processes under the Indian Independence Act. On the eve of August 14, Pakistan and India have split apart. Since then, the Constituent Assembly of India has taken on a sovereign role in drafting India's constitution, and it has done so with renewed vigour. It reflected the National Assembly ultimately, forceful and natural way.

The Constituent Assembly had a total of 389 members. Three hundred eighty-nine people were chosen, with 93 coming from the princely states and 296 from the British Indian provinces, using proportional representation and a single, transferable vote. In 29 August 1947 that the Constitutional Drafting Committee was officially created. The committee consisted of a chairman and six other individuals. Members of the committee were Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, K. M. Munshi, Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, N Gopalaswami Iyengar, B. L. Mitter, Md. Saadullah, D. P. Khaitan, and N. Madhava Rao. As a constitutional adviser, Sir Benegal Narsing Rau was appointed. On the other hand, in 1950, he was appointed the first Indian judge on the International Court of Justice. The committee did lose B L Mitter, though. Madhav Rao, the Maharaja of Vadodara's legal advisor, took his post, as did D P Khaitan, who died and was succeeded by T T Krishnamachari.

In his last address to the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, Dr. Ambedkar said the following.

On December 9, 1946, the Constituent Assembly met for the first time and began drafting India's new Constitution. There were eleven meetings during this period, six of which dealt with the resolution's goals as well as reviewing reports from committees on fundamental rights, the Constitution, and federal powers; minorities and scheduled regions, and Scheduled tribes were also examined. The proposed Constitution was discussed during the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh sessions. A total of 165 days were spent in the Constituent Assembly's eleven sessions. The Assembly spent 114 days deliberating on the proposed Constitution alone. On August 29, 1947, the Constituent Assembly elected the Drafting Committee. The first meeting was held on August 30. For 141 days, starting on August 30, he worked on the draught constitution with the rest of the chamber. As a text for the draught committee, the constitutional consultant provided 243 articles and 13 schedules. There were 315 articles in the initial draft of the Constitution presented to the Constituent Assembly by the Drafting Committee. There were 386 items in the proposed Constitution when it was finished being reviewed. Including all 395 articles and eight schedules, the Constitution's final draft was 395 pages long. In all, there were 7,635 suggested revisions to the draught constitution; the Assembly received 2,473 of them, and it took much too long to finish its task, squandering time and money. "Nero fiddling while Rome was on fire" was a common saying.

How long do constituent assemblies in various nations take to write their constitutions? The American Constitution was written in four months, the Canadian Constitution in two years and five months, the Australian Constitution was prepared over nine years, and the South African Constitution was drafted over a year. Our conventions indeed take longer than those in the United States or South Africa. On the one hand, their constitutions are far more compact than ours. There are 395 articles in our Constitution, compared to the seven in the United States. The first four are broken into divisions totalling 21 articles, Canada, 147, 128 in Australia, and 153 in South Africa. Also, keep in mind that decision-makers in the United States, Canada, Australia, and South Africa don't have to deal with the issue of changes in their constitutional frameworks. They were passed along as if they had been pushed or pulled. A total of 2,473 amendments were brought before the current Constituent Assembly.

A Constitution's ability to function does not rely just on the document's structure. Only state institutions, such as the Legislative Assembly, the Executive Branch, and the Judiciary, may be provided by

the Constitution. The individuals and political parties who will use these state institutions to carry out their objectives and agendas are the ones who will determine how well they work.

We can never afford to overlook Jefferson's thoughts on the Constitution since he was such an essential figure in developing the American system. He once remarked, "We may see each generation as a different nation, with a right, by choice of the majority, to bind themselves, but none to tie the future generation, more than the residents of another country," "The idea that institutions established for the national use cannot be touched or modified, even to make them answer their end, because of rights gratuitously presumed in those employed to manage them in the trust for the public, may perhaps be a beneficial provision against abuses of a monarch but is most absurd against the nation itself," he said. It's still the case that many of our lawyers and priests uphold this doctrine, saying that previous generations had the right to impose laws on us that could not be changed and that we can do the same for future generations, passing laws and putting burdens on them that they will not be able to change.

There can be no doubt about Jefferson's assessment of this. There's no way around it: this is the case. If the Constituent Assembly had renounced Jefferson's concept, it would have been directly accountable for the conviction itself. It was enough to look at the part of the Constitution that dealt with amendments. The Assembly established a reasonably easy mechanism for amending the Constitution rather than imposing a seal of intent and infallibility, as in Canada, or subjecting the modification to unusual terms and circumstances, as in the United States or Australia. States are given legislative and administrative authority over their citizens, not via a statute enacted at the federal level but rather through the Constitution itself. So the Constitution acts. States under our Constitution do not rely on the federal government for legislative or executive authority. In this situation, the Center and the States are equal. Such a constitution hardly qualifies as "centralist," in my opinion. A wide range of legislative and administrative powers may be given to the federal government by the Constitution than any other federal constitution. Rather than the States, the Centre may be granted the remaining authorities.

His mind was so occupied with the future of our nation that Dr.B.R. Ambedkar decided to use this occasion to share some of his ideas with the Constituent Assembly. India will be a sovereign nation on this day in 1950. That's the first thing he thought of when he saw the picture. To be free was unquestionably a joyful experience. However, let's not forget that our newfound freedom comes with a heavy burden. We can no longer use the British as an excuse for everything that goes wrong in our quest for independence. If anything goes wrong in the future, we won't have anybody to blame except ourselves. He also warned that things might go wrong. The passage of time moves at a rapid pace. There are new ideas that are inspiring people, including our own. Government by the people wears them down. Regardless of whether a government was managed by the people or by a government, they were happy to have governments for the people. The preservation of our Constitution necessitates our resolve that we will not be sluggish in acknowledging and addressing the problems that stand in the way of promoting a shift from a government of, by, and for the people. Finally, we can serve our country.

## CONCLUSION:

Dr. Ambedkar was born into a caste regarded as the lowest in the social hierarchy. People believed that giving him water to drink was a sin and that allowing him to sit on a cart would make it dirty. However, he drafted the country's first constitution after independence. His whole life was a battle. In addition, he had lost his first wife and their two children; his personal life was bleak. Despite this, he hasn't wavered in his dedication to improving the lives of Indian citizens. The youngster who was humiliated as a child became the nation's first Minister of Law once the country was freed, and he helped create the country's Constitution. It is understandable why he was affectionately referred to as "Babasaheb" by those around him. Freedom, equality, fraternity, and humanism were among Dr. Ambedkar's many causes.

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