

Constitution Committee

1749

The Constitution Committee met in Bombay on the 23rd August 1959. The following were present:

Prof. N.G. Ranga - Chairman
Shri M.R. Masani
Sir H.P. Modi
Shri Dabholkar Patel
Shri T.O. Krishnamoorthy
Shri S.Y. Krishnaswamy

Shri K.M. Munshi did not attend, but gave his views in a note.

I. The draft Constitution prepared by Shri Krishnaswamy was discussed.

1. The name of the Party. No comments

2. Object: To be re-written and shortened. It will be sufficient to state that the object is to further the principles of the Party. Rajaji should be consulted on this.

3. Membership: Membership clause as passed by the Convention to be inserted as it is. "That a member shall belong to the unit where he resides or works" should be added.

4. Subscription. To be left as it is.

5 Structure. To be modified as follows:

- A) 1) Local Legislature Constituency Unit
- 2) District Unit
- 3) Regional Unit
- 4) All India Unit

B) The District unit and the multi-member Municipalities and Corporations will be given the same organisational status.

C) A list of the regional units should be added, and then another clause should be inserted that "the re-organisation of the units will be by a change in the Constitution."

D) It was considered necessary that certain people should be co-opted to the elective bodies without a right to vote.

E) The members on the rolls in any Constituency Unit shall nominate a committee of 25 for that unit. This Committee which will become the General body for it, in turn will elect the Chairman and other office bearers.

F) The General body of each unit shall be the electing College for electing the next higher body. For instance, the General body of the Constituency unit will elect the District Committee. The General body of the District Committee will elect the Provincial committee.

G) These bodies will elect their own office bearers.

6. Election for all such bodies shall be by the single transferrable vote.

7. The Local and Central Legislatures members to be ex-officio members of various bodies -- The clause should be left as it is.

8. Annual conference to elect Central office, including leader. This should be reconciled with (6) above.

9. Provision for similar election to each body should be made.

10. Provision for no-confidence should be made by one-third of the members on rolls for requisition and two thirds of those present for majority

11. Subscription should be divided in the proportion of

1/3 for the Centre ; 2/3 for the Region

2/3 for the District ; 3/8 for the Constituency

12. Provision should be made for special bodies to select candidates at each level

13. A clause should be inserted stating in whose name property will be held.

14. The clause about donations. Should be deleted.

II. Mr. T.G. Krishnamurthy will prepare a new draft

III. The next meeting of the Committee will be held early in October.