



Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as Baba Saheb, was the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. A veritable emancipator of Dalits, a great national leader and patriot, a great author, a great educationist, a great political philosopher, a great religious guide and above he was great himself without any parallel among his contemporaries.

Born in a Mahar family of Ambavade, a small village in Ratnagiri in Maharashtra on 14 April 1891, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the fourteenth child of his parents. Since he was from an untouchable community devoid of dignity and pride, his childhood was full of humiliations and



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deprivations, whether in classroom or in playground or in any public gathering. Surprisingly, he rose to be a highly qualified man with his academic degrees of M.A, Ph.D., D.Sc. and Barrister at law.

Dr. Ambedkar was appointed as the first Law Minister of Free India. On 29th August, 1947 the Constituent Assembly appointed him as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee along with six other members to draft the Constitution of India.

It took the Drafting Committee 141 days to draft the constitution which presented to the

President of the Constituent Assembly on the 21st February, 1948. A great deal of discussion and debate on different Provisions of the draft constitution was dealt dexterously by him. A herculean task through it was to convince each and everyone around while keeping the numerous interests of a society in mind, Dr. Ambedkar came out victorious. And so our Constitution the largest written in the world-was adopted on the 26th November, 1949 by unanimous roar of the Constituent Assembly as well as whole nation.

The section of Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Remedies owed much to



Dr. Ambedkar. Part III of Indian Constitution guarantees the Fundamental Rights to its citizens. Some of the Fundamental Rights contained in Article 15(2), 17, 23 and 24 are also enforceable against the individuals as they are very significant rights relating to Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religions, race, caste, sex or place of birth etc. As regards the constitutional remedies, Dr. Ambedkar characterized Article 32 as the very soul of the Constitution and the heart of it. Speaking in the debate in the Constituent Assembly he said, "If I was asked to name any particular article of the Constitution as the most important, I would not refer to any other article except this one". Article 32 authorizes the Supreme Court to not only issue direction, orders or writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, certioraris, etc or any other appropriate remedy as the case may be for the enforcement of fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Ambedkar was a strong advocate of Parliamentary form of Government right from the inception of the Government of India Act of 1935. He firmly believed that Parliamentary system of government alone can usher in an egalitarian society through the application of Principles of Social democracy. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution echoes the Principles of Parliamentary democracy.

The Parliamentary form of Government was considered to be more democratic and according to Dr. Ambedkar "there is daily and periodic assessment of responsibility of the Government under parliamentary system". He described the role of President as "He is the head of the state but not the executive. He represents to nation but does not rule the nation. He is the symbol of nation. His place in the administration

is that of a ceremonial device on a seal by which the nation's decisions are made known. The President of the Indian Union will be generally bound by the advice of the Ministers. He can do nothing contrary to their advice nor can he do anything without their advice."

Ambedkar supported for federal form of government. Commenting on the unique nature of the federation proposed in the draft constitution, he explained why a federal form of government tailored to suit the exigencies of the Indian situation was the need of the hour. He said, "The draft Constitution is federal constitution in as much as it establishes what may be called Dual Polity. This Dual Polity under the proposed Constitution will consist of the union at the centre and the states at the Periphery each endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution. The draft constitution can be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances. In normal times, it is framed to work as a federal system but in times of war it is so designed as to make it work as though it was a unitary system".

Dr. Ambedkar played a crucial role in laying down the Directive Principles of State Policy, a unique feature of the Indian Constitution. These principles mandate that the state shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting just social order. A close scrutiny of the Directive Principles in our Constitution reveal that they contain Social, Gandhian and Liberal ideas. The particular aim of these Directive Principles is to make India a Welfare State by introducing socialism in economic sphere, to provide social security and better standard of sanitation and care for all, to emphasize duty



towards women, children and the obligations towards the backward and tribal classes. These principles are, however, not enforceable in any court nor the Constitution proposes any duty to apply these principles in making laws. When Fundamental Rights are negative in character the Directive Principles set forth a positive programme for the state to be implemented at its own convenience. Although they are not enforceable in the courts, the Constitution solemnly proclaims them to be “fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the of the State to apply these principles in making laws.” These principles are to serve “as a sign post and guide the State in all its work.”

The real contribution of Dr. Ambedkar is reflected in the protective discrimination scheme or the reservation policy of the government envisaged under some provisions of part III and many of part IV dealing with the constitutional mandate to ameliorate the condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes. Provisions like Articles 17 prohibiting untouchability, Article 30 dealing

with the protection of minorities are some of the notable examples. Article 15[4] and 16[4] of part III and part XI and Schedule V and VI dealing with the upliftment of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes speak clearly about the substantial and significant contributions of Ambedkar for the development of the untouchables.

Thus, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s contribution to the Indian Constitution is undoubtedly of the highest order. Indeed he deserves to be called the Father or the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution. As a tribute to his great efforts and achievements, Ambedkar was awarded Bharat Ratna [posthumously] as a token of respect and reverence.

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