

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

डा० कदमीनारक्षण पांडे : मैं विधेयक पुर.स्थापित करता हूँ।

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Insertion of new articles 23A, 23B & 23C)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Article 368)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं भारत के संविधान का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को पुर.स्थापित करने की अनुमति चाहता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

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The motion was adopted.

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CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Substitution of article 370)

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The motion was adopted.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं विधेयक को पुर.स्थापित करता हूँ।

POSSESSION OF FIRE ARMS AND
AMMUNITION BILL*

श्री राम रत्न शर्मा (बांदा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नागरिकों के कतिपय प्रवर्ग द्वारा अग्न्यायुध और गोलाबारूद कब्जे में रखे जाने की व्यवस्था करने तथा आयुध अधिनियम, 1959 का निरसन करने वाले विधेयक को पुर.स्थापित करने की अनुमति चाहता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the possession of fire-arms and ammunition by certain category of citizens and to repeal the Arms Act, 1959.”

The motion was adopted.

श्री राम रत्न शर्मा : मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

15.32 hrs.

PREVENTION OF CONVERSION
BILL—C *ntd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we take up further consideration of the Bill by Shri Jagannathrao Joshi. 1 hour 30 minutes were allotted and we have taken 1 hour 14 minutes. Only 16 minutes remain. So, shall I call the Minister to reply ?

Last time Mr. Goswami was on his legs. Would he like to continue his speech ?

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Gauhati) : I have already covered all may points.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): Sir, please give me five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, the Bill on Prevention of Conversion brought forward by Mr. Jagannath Rao Joshi has provided us an opportunity to discuss religion, conversion to religion, whether it is voluntary or Compulsory.

Sir, the Bill in its clause 3 says that the religion of every minor Indian citizen shall be one which is followed by his parents and is shall be regarded accordingly. According to me, I want freedom from religion. After all, freedom is not to choose a religion. It is thrust on us. I will be happy to live without a religion but it is not option for me. But, it will be compulsory that I will be in some religion or another. This principle I am opposed to.

Si religion has done more harm than good in this world for the people. In crusades and *jehads* millions of people were killed in the name of religion. Our Tamil ancient literature speaks of a Tamil king who was a Hindu fanatic, of hanging 8000 people

because they happened to be Jains. Sir, from those days till the Arba-Israeli war thousands and thousands of people have been killed in the name of religion. When great thinkers like Ingersoll, Bruno pointed out these defects, they were tortured, burnt or buried alive. In spite of that the torch lit by Ingersoll was carried on by other great thinkers and now it is being carried on by Periyar Ramaswami Naicker.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior) : Question.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : I do not know. Opinion may differ. But still I say that people must have the opportunity and they must have the freedom to choose the religion. Why should we thrust a religion upon a certain person ?

The object of the Bill is that minor should not be given the option to change their religion. The principle underlying the Bill must be accepted by one and all. For, we have heard of cases where people are lured by money or job or other things and they get converted to some other religions. But let us go into the causes. Why do people convert themselves to other religions ? Why did Dr. Ambedkar become a Buddhist ? Why do a number of people, in fact, lakhs and lakhs of people, particularly of the Scheduled Castes and other lower rungs of the Hindu society get converted to Christianity ? What is the reason ? After all, the reason lies among the Hindus themselves and in Hindu society itself. The reason is that there is no equality in Hindu society which is available in other religions. The rigid caste system and the practice of untouchability does not allow the lower castes to enter the temples. These people are not allowed to go to the public wells and draw water. This is the reason why these people prefer to go to Christianity or Islam or other religions. We have to clear our own houses first before advising others.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Is the hon. Member speaking as a Hindu himself ?

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Unfortunately or fortunately I am a Hindu.