

## FUNCTIONS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

The princely states who were stayed away became gradually sent their representative and joined in the Constituent Assembly. On 28 April 1947 representatives of six states were part of the Assembly. After the acceptance of the Mountbatten plan of June 31947, for a partition of the country, the representative of most of the other princely state took their seats in the Assembly. The Indian independence act of 1947 made the three changes on the function of the Constituent Assembly.

1. The sole objective of the constituent Assembly was to frame the constitution of sovereign India.

The act gave the power to the Assembly to abrogate or alter any law made by the British parliament in relation to India.

2. The constituent Assembly became the legislative body to frame the Constitution for free India and enacting the ordinary law for the country. These two tasks were to be performed on separate days. Thus the constituent Assembly became the first Parliament of free India. When the Assembly met to frame the constitution body, it was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and when it was met for the legislative body, it was chaired by G.V. Mavlankar. The functions continued till November 26, 1949, when the task of making constitution was over.

3. The Muslim League members (hailing from the areas included in the Pakistan) withdrew from the Constituent Assembly for India. Consequently the total strength of the Assembly came down to 299 as against 389 originally fixed in 1946 under the Cabinet Mission Plan. The strength of the Indian provinces also came down from 296 to 229 and those of the princely states from 93 to 70.

4. The constituent Assembly was rectified India's membership of the commonwealth in may1949.
5. The Assembly adopted the national flag on July 22, 1947.
6. Assembly also adopted the national anthem on January 24, 1950.
7. It adopted the national song on January 24, 1950.
8. Constituent Assembly elected the first President of free India to Dr. Rajendra Prasad on 24 January 1950.

To perform all the functions, the Constituent Assembly had 11 sessions over two years, 11 months and 18 days. The members of the Drafting Committee had gone through constitution of 60 countries and the draft constitution was considered for 114 days. The total expenditure incurred in making the Constitution was 64 Lakhs in Indian Rupees.

On 24 January, 1950, the Constituent Assembly held its final session. It however, did not end and continued as the provisional Parliament of India with effect of from 26 January 1950 till the formation of new Parliament after the general election held in 1951-52.

#### SUMMARY

The Constitution Assembly had been playing an important role to frame the constitution of sovereign India. The different significant committee had helped the Constituent Assembly to articulate the idea of various Constitution of the world and develop or frame the Constitution of India. The Drafting Committee of the Assembly had a significant role under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who provided the final shape of the Constitution. The other committees had also performed their role very seriously to frame the Constitution of India.