

into force on September 6, 1951 of the Government of Part "C" States Act, seven of these may now look forward to legislative assemblies which will be formed after the general elections.

### **Machinery of Government**

These 28 states, comprising the Union of India, will be governed by a union parliament consisting of an upper house called the Council of States, and a lower house, called the House of the People which, like the House of Commons in Canada, will wield the greater power of the two bodies through its control of the public purse. In addition to a few members of the House of the People to be nominated by the President of the Republic, mainly to provide representation in remote areas, some 489 seats will be filled by direct election by the people as a whole. Of these, 82 have been reserved for elected representatives of scheduled castes and 27 for representatives of scheduled tribes. The reason for this will be explained below.

The Council of States will consist of 204 members mostly elected from part "A", "B", and "C" states, as well as twelve other members who will be nominated by the President of the Republic, chiefly in consideration of their special knowledge or practical experience in the fields of literature, science, art, social services and the like.

Co-terminously with elections to the Union House of the People, polling for the various state legislatures will also take place. Only seven of these will be bi-cameral—with an upper house called a legislative council and a lower house called a legislative assembly. The members of a legislative council will be partly elected and partly nominated. One third of the strength will be elected by an electoral college consisting of members of local bodies within the state, for example district boards, municipalities, city corporations and others. Another third of the legislative councillors will be elected by the members of the legislative assembly of the state, one twelfth by graduates of at least three years' standing, and one twelfth by teachers of secondary schools and other higher academic institutions. The balance of one-sixth will be nominated by the governor or *rajpramukh*, as the case may be, in consideration of particular knowledge or experience in art, literature, science, co-operative movements, social services and similar fields of endeavour.

The legislative assemblies in the various Part "A" and Part "B" states will consist of anywhere from 30 to 510 elected members—including, in most cases, a small number representing scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. As in the central House of the People, a few seats are reserved for representatives of these groups. This is done to safeguard the particular interests of the many lower castes and tribes identified and listed (scheduled) in the constitution as backward or depressed classes deserving of special treatment. Although the constitution looks forward to the day when all Indians will, in fact as well as theory, have complete equality as citizens, it recognizes that, for practical reasons, special treatment should be accorded these less fortunate groups for the first ten years of the life of the new republic. At the end of that time it is expected that the practice of reserving seats will disappear.

When the results of the general elections are known and the state legislatures have been formed, an electoral college, composed of the members of these local bodies, together with the members of the Union Parliament, will choose a new President of the Republic.

In spite of conservative traditions, Indian women have acquired political equality with men. Of the 177 million voters in India, nearly half are women. The use of motor vehicles and other forms of mechanically-powered transport has been banned to ensure that the rich candidate does not have an advantage over his poorer rival. Polling day will be declared as a holiday.