

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian community, which constitutes 51 per cent of the population has been given less than one-third representation in the Legislative Council.

(c) if so, whether India has protested to Britain against the discrimination shown towards the Indian community;

(d) whether any efforts have been made to raise this issue in the U.N.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) The present constitution provides for a Legislative Council, elected on the basis of a combination of communal and cross voting systems. This gives the European Community (which also includes part European and Chinese) 10 out of 36 elected seats. This is out of all proportion to the size of this group who number about 33,590 out of a total population of about 476,730.

(b) Yes, Sir. People of Indian origin have only 12 seats, out of 40 in the Legislative Council.

(c) and (d). India has, in association with other likeminded countries, taken up the question of Fiji in the United Nations, in the broader context of the emergence of Fiji to independence on the basis of the principle of "one man, one vote".

(e) The United Nations General Assembly and the U.N. Special Committee of Twenty-four have been considering the question of Fiji since 1963, and a number of resolutions on this subject have been adopted. The latest resolution of the General Assembly was adopted on 12th December, 1966 and of the Special Committee of Twenty-four on 15th September, 1967. These resolutions reaffirm the right of the people of Fiji to freedom and independence and call upon the administering power (i.e. U.K.) to hold general elections in accordance with the principle of 'one man, one vote', to fix an early date for the independence of Fiji and to abolish all discriminatory measures so as to foster communal harmony and national unity in

the Territory. India has supported these resolutions.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

2032. SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate disabled Emergency Commissioned Officers and Jawans in the Armed Forces; and

(b) the policy of Government regarding their retention in the services ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Disabled Emergency Commissioned Officers placed in a permanent low medical category higher than 'C' due to enemy action are being considered for retention in service as Permanent Commissioned Officers if they are otherwise eligible and found fit after undergoing modified Services Selection Board test. Disabled jawans placed in a permanent medical category higher than 'C' are being retained in service without any exception. Those disabled jawans who are placed in permanent medical category 'C' are also being retained provided sheltered appointments are available for them.

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FROM U.S.A.

2033. SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that spares for Air Defence and Radar equipment supplied by U.S.A. have been stopped now and difficulties are being experienced in replenishing the same; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to procure these spares and equipment from other sources ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Supplies on grant and aid basis have been stopped by U.S.A.; the U.S.A. Government is, however, willing to supply the required spares on payment and steps have been taken to obtain the required spares on cash purchase basis.