SHRI JAI SINGH : SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN : SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether she has received any complaint from the Government of Gujarat against the activities of Shri Mchd. Yunus Saleem, Deputy Minister of Law, who during his visit to Ahmedabad asked the riots victims not to leave the refugee camps and not to return to their homes;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken against the Deputy Minister of Law for such communal actions?

THE PRIME MINISTER. MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLAN-NING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Prime Minister received two communications from the Chief Minister of Gujarat on the visit of Shri Mohd. Yunus Saleem, the Union Deputy Minister of Law. Shri Saleem also sent a report to Prime Minister regarding his visit and his assessment of the situation. The House will appreciate that it is not possible to give details regarding communications exchanged between the Prime Minister on the one hand and the members of her Council of Ministers or of the State Government on the other.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Chinese Protest on P.M.'s Meeting with Dalai Lama

471. SHRI J. AHMED : SHRI SITARAM KESRI : SHRI S. KUNDU : SHRI S. M. KRISHNA : SHRI J. K. CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese Charge d' Affairs in New Delhi has strongly protested to Government over the recent meeting of Dalai Lama with Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) On the 16th October, 1969 the Chinese Charge d' Affairs verbally "protested" to the Ministry of External Affairs against the meeting of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the Foreign Minister of India (not Prime Minister).

(b) The reply of the Government of India was that appropriate courtesies due to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, including calls on leaders were, as usual extended to him. The Chinese charge d'Affairs "protests" were categorically rejected.

Shortage of Engineers in Defence Services

472. SHRI J. AHMED : SHRI BAIDHAR BEHERA : SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of engineers in Defence Services ;

(b) whether any efforts were made by the Defence Department to attract the Engineers offering better service condition; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STEFL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) There is a shortage of engineers in Army and Navy but there is no shortage in Air Force.

(b) and (c). Army efforts were made to attract engineers by offering them the following better service conditions as against other categories :--

- (1) Engineering Graduates were granted Short Service Commission, on probation, in the rank of 2/Lt., from the date of commencement of the course, or the date of reporting at the I.M.A., whichever was later.
- (2) They were granted two years antedate for purposes of seniority, promotion and increments of pay.
- (3) Additional ante-date was also granted to officers drawn under the Compulsory Service Liability