

COMPOSITION OF LEGISLATURES

Assembly Debate To End Today

From Our Special Representative
NEW DELHI, January 7.

The Constituent Assembly, before it adjourns tomorrow to meet again about the middle of May to resume detailed consideration of the draft Constitution, is expected to adopt a resolution, to be moved from the chair directing the Central and Provincial Governments to take all necessary steps, including the preparation of electoral rolls, in order to hold general elections as early as possible in 1950.

At the meeting tomorrow, the House will complete the discussion on Article 149 and subsequent articles dealing with the composition of the provincial legislatures.

It is understood that the demand of some members from West Bengal and East Punjab for holding a special census of their population whose composition has been radically altered as a result of the mass exchange of population and influx of refugees, was found unacceptable, as it would take about two years to complete such a task. It is likely to be pointed out that firstly as the election will be on the basis of adult franchise, everyone eligible will have his vote exercised; and secondly Governments will be requested to do everything to have the names of refugees and new-comers enumerated properly.

EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION

As regards the disputed Clause on the size of a constituency to bring about equitable representation for backward and thinly populated areas, the Congress Party is stated to have decided at its meeting this evening that the ratio and the size of a constituency will be kept uniform "as far as practicable." Dr. Ambedkar may also give an assurance that he would try to include in the instrument of instruction a clause enjoining on Governors to see that undeveloped backward people and areas are adequately represented.

(Details on page 5).