

(c) how many centres have been selected in the State of Bihar?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) Yes.

(b) Letters have been addressed to all universities and important research institutions in the country but no final selection of centres has yet been made.

(c) Patna University and University of Bihar have been requested to send in Research Schemes.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

*532. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the pharmaceutical industry is handicapped by the difficulties of high cost of raw materials?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to remove the difficulties?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Government do not consider that it would be correct to say that the pharmaceutical industry as a whole is handicapped by the high costs of raw materials. In the manufacture of particular pharmaceuticals some difficulty may be there. Cases which are brought to the notice of Government are examined and such assistance as is possible is rendered. In this connection attention is invited to the reply to unstarred question No. 69 given in the House of the People on 19th November, 1953. The whole question is now under investigation by the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee, whose report is awaited.

U.N.O.

*534. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to certain allegations made by Mr. John Lautner before the McCarthy Committee in America against the Indian Delegation to the U.N.O. to the effect that a member of the delegation

addressed what he called secret "Communist meetings in New York"?

(b) If so, are the allegations true and against whom particularly was this allegation made?

(c) Have the Government of India taken any action in this regard, if the allegations are not true?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) to (c). Government have seen newspaper reports to this effect. No name has been mentioned there. There is absolutely no truth in the allegations and our delegation in New York described them as "absolute nonsense", when asked by the New York press.

Government do not propose to take any other action in regard to irresponsible statements made by irresponsible persons.

VIJAYAWADA RADIO STATION

*535. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that an Advisory Committee has been constituted for the Vijayawada radio-centre;

(b) if so, the names of the members thereof; and

(c) the main proposals that were made by the Committee to improve the radio-centre?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The newly reconstituted Committee met on 28th November, 1953; the minutes of the meeting are awaited. I might inform the hon. Member that the Committee is purely an advisory one and is mainly concerned with making suggestions for improvement of programmes.