

(b) if so, what are Government's views on the functioning and usefulness of the Committee; and

(c) whether Government propose to reorganise the Committee?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Consistent with its charter of duties, the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet is concerned with scientific and technological matters of wider application, either *suo motu* or on references received from Ministries etc. The recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet cover a wide range of subjects including the formulation and implementation of the Government's scientific policy, co-ordination of scientific work among Ministries of Government, semi-Governmental and non-Governmental scientific institutions in the country.

(c) This is being examined.

आकाशवाणी का देहरादून केन्द्र

* 456. श्री टी० पांडे : क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि आकाशवाणी के देहरादून केन्द्र को किन कारणों से बन्द किया जा रहा है ?

†[DEHRA DUN STATION OF ALL INDIA RADIO

*456. SHRI T. PANDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the reasons for which the Dehra Dun Station of the All India Radio is being closed?]

सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री के० के० शाह) : देहरादून में आकाशवाणी का कोई केन्द्र कभी भी परिचालित नहीं था, अतः उसको बंद करने का सवाल ही नहीं उठता ।

†[THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): All India Radio never had any station in operation at Dehra Dun and hence the question of its closure does not arise.]

VISIT OF INDIA BY FOREIGN VICE-PRESIDENT OF U.S.A.

*457. SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a former Vice-President of U.S.A. visited India recently; and

(b) if so, whether any assurances have been given by him that the Government of U.S.A. will help India in case China attacks again?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The former Vice-President, Mr. Nixon, is not a member of the U.S. Government and the question of assurances by him on behalf of the U.S. Government does not arise.

JOURNALIST AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EXTERNAL PUBLICITY

*458. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the decision taken on the proposal to appoint a top level Journalist as Director-General of External Publicity?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): At one time a proposal was considered to appoint a Journalist in the Ministry of External Affairs to deal with external publicity, but on further consideration it was decided not to pursue the matter, and to continue the practice of having a Foreign Service officer to deal with publicity, as has been the case since 1947.