

(b) In 1955, an officer of the Community Projects Administration visited Iran at the invitation of the Pahlavi Estates Department. Recently the Government of Iran have requested for the services of another officer to assist them in arranging a Community Development Seminar of Asian Countries.

The Government of Afghanistan had in 1958 requested for the visit of the Adviser Health in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation. Subsequently however they asked for the visit to be postponed.

Two Indians are working as experts on Community Development with the Government of Afghanistan under the auspices of United Nations.

Methanol Plant, Sindri

*380. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 177 on the 6th August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether any enquiry was made into the causes of fire in the Methanol Plant at Sindri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). An enquiry was made to determine the cause of the fire. It was discovered that there had been another fire earlier on the same day in an adjoining area which was dealt with promptly by the Fire Service people who thought that they had completely extinguished it. Some sparks it is presumed remained and fanned by the breeze, might have caused the fire to the Methanol Plant.

Indian Representatives on U.N. Committees

*381. { **Shri Mohammed Imam:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri U. L. Patil:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently lost some seats in the Committees of U.N.O.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Our nominee failed to get re-elected to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. For another seat, on the Economic and Social Council, we withdrew our candidature in favour of Japan, after six inconclusive ballots. Elections have not yet been held for vacancies in the Trusteeship Council, to which we are seeking re-election.

(b) Such seats in the General Assembly are filled by secret ballot. It is, therefore, inadvisable to assign reasons for success or failure in these elections.

Slum Clearance

*382. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have made representations against the Union Government's recent decision to limit its assistance for slum clearance work to only six cities—Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the names of these States; and

(c) the action taken by the Government of India thereon?