

(b) whether it is also a fact that N.D.M.C. has refused permission to reconstruct the side-room of the Mosque which collapsed three years ago;

(c) whether it is a fact that under Islamic Law no Mosque can be shifted from its original site;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government or a local municipal body have the authority to shift a Mosque from its original site; and

(e) whether the Government will explain the intent, purpose and object behind the condition imposed by the N.D.M.C. and the reason for refusing reconstruction of the side-room?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (e) The NDMC has granted permission to the Delhi Wakf Board for the repair of the Janpath Mosque as are essential and necessary for keeping the Mosque in-tact in its present shape subject to the Secretary, Delhi Wakf Board furnishing the affidavit in the form of an undertaking to the Board consent to reconstruct/shift the Mosque to a conforming site/pace as and when required by the Govt./NDMC without demanding any compensation therefor.

The matter was considered by the Government and the NDMC has since been advised not to insist on such an undertaking or affidavit from the Delhi Wakf Board.

Site for the Settlement of Refugees from Erstwhile East Pakistan

2703. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN; Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large stretch of land alongside the main

entrance (from Derhbandhu College side) to Chittranjan Park, New Delhi which is earmarked for bona fide East Pakistan Displaced Persons (E.P.D.P.) is lying vacant for the last several years;

entrance (from Derhbandhu College side) to Chittranjan Park, New Delhi which is earmarked for bona fide East Pakistan Displaced Persons (E.P.D.P.) is lying vacant for the last several years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that two rival Associations have been formed in that colony and one is demanding allotment of plots to individuals and the other is favouring construction of multi-storeyed flats on the pattern of Group Housing Cooperative Societies; and

(c) if answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) There is a stretch of land, measuring approximately four acres alongside the main entrance from Deshbandhu College side to Chittranjan Park, New Delhi. This site is partly encroached and partly vacant.

(b) and (c) In response to 1977 Government Notification inviting applications from displaced persons from erstwhile East Pakistan for allotment of plots in Chittranjan Park, New Delhi, 1606 applications had been received. Out of those, only 794 satisfied the criteria for allotment of plots. For want of adequate number of plots, only 82 applicants could be allotted plots by draw of lots. The remaining eligible applicants formed an association under the name "Association of East Pakistan Displaced Persons, declared eligible for allotment of plots in Delhi" and continued their demand for allotment of plots. Another Association of East Pakistan Displaced Persons" is of the view that no residential plot be carved out within the area earmarked for community facilities like schools,

Previously "Unstarred Question No. 2307. transit removed from the 22nd March, 1982.

parks, open space, community centres, etc. No decision has been taken on the demand and counter-demands of the Associations.

Building up of Arsenal by United States on Indian Ocean

12704. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States has built up an arsenal on the Indian Ocean Island of Diego-Garcia and the pentagon is mapping plans to create floating storage depots elsewhere around the world; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to maintain peace and security in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO); (13) Government are aware that the United States has substantially increased its military presence in the Indian Ocean and is implementing plans for further upgrading the Anglo US base at Diego Garcia.

(b) India is continuing to work along with other littoral, hinterland and non-aligned States of the Indian Ocean for the full implementation of the 1971 UN Declaration to make the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace. India and other like minded States are continuing to work for an early convening of the UN Conference on the Indian Ocean, which was earlier scheduled to be held in 1981, but could not be held because of the attitude adopted by some Great Powers. During its 36th session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution requesting the U.N. *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean to "accomplish the necessary preparatory work" and to consider the convening of the proposed conference on the

@Previously Unstarred Question 2383, transferred from the 23rd March, 1982.

Indian Ocean not later than the first half of 1983.

Completion of M.T.N. Strategic Defence Highways

12705| SHRIMATI USHA MALHO-TRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased refer to the answers to Unstarred Question 1441 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1980 and state-

(a) what progress has so far been made regarding the completion of the portion of Mukerian-Talwara-Nurpur strategic Defence Highways in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the number of bridges so far completed and the number of bridges which are under construction;

(c) the amount so far spent on the construction of the Highway;

(d) whether the work of the Highway is far behind the scheduled programme;

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action Government have taken to complete the Highway as per the schedule; and

(f) by when the Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITARAMT KESRI);

(a) Out of 53 Kms length in Himachal Pradesh, the missing link of 25 Kms has almost been completed and the improvement works on the existing road in the remaining length is also nearing completion.

(b) 6 bridges have been completed and 10 bridges are in various stages of construction.

@Previously Unstarred Question. 2467, transferred from the 23rd March, 1982.