

(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 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 PARLIAMEN-
TARY 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 conveying the Board's
consent to reconstruct/shift the Mos-
que to a conforming site/place 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 BAR-
MAN: 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 Deshbandhu 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 de-
manding allotment of plots to indivi-
duals and the other is favouring con-
struction 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 de-
cision Government have taken in the
matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND
HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA
NARAIN SINGH): (a) There is a
stretch of land, measuring approxi-
mately 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 ap-
plications 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 "As-
sociation of East Pakistan Displaced
Persons, declared eligible for allot-
ment of plots in Delhi" and continued
their demand for allotment of
plots. Another Association of East
the title "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 Instarred Question
No. 2307, transferred 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

†2704. 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): (a) 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 2363, transferred from the 23rd March, 1982.

Indian Ocean not later than the first half of 1983.

Completion of M.T.N. Strategic Defence Highways

†2705| SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: 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 SITARAM 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.