

(b) The standard, potent and effective Antil TB drugs which are already in use for the treatment of T.B. patients in the T.B. Hospitals are:

(1) Streptomycin, (2) INH, (3) PAS, (4) Thiacetazone. For patients who develop resistance to these anti-TB drugs, a multi drug therapy using new Anti-TB drugs namely Ethambutol, Rifampicin and Pyrazinamide is being used. Also trials are being conducted for reducing the duration of treatment of a TB patient with the use of multi drug regimen comprising of Rifampicin, Pyrazinamide, Streptomycin and INH.

Statement made by Foreign Minister of Bangladesh about Bay Islands

*657. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI R. K. MHALGI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to the effect that South Talpatty Islands in the Bay of Bengal were not in possession of any country;

(b) if so, what is the actual position of these islands and to which country they belong to;

(c) whether there is any other island in Indian Maritime belt about whose possession/occupation or ownership, there is some dispute with neighbouring countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Government have seen the statement made by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister on 29 December, 1980 during a Calling Attention Notice in the Bangladesh Parliament. He stated that, according to their information, Bangladesh was the rightful owner of the islands which, he

said, had emerged newly in the estuary of the Hariabhanga river. He described the islands as disputed areas.

According to our information there is only one island. It is called New Moore Island in our charts, Purbasha by the West Bengal Government and South Talpatty by the Bangladesh Government. India's title to this island is clear. Bangladesh appears to be under the impression that New Moore Islands and Purbasha are two separate islands. We have informed them that these are different names for the same island. We propose to explain our position further to the Bangladesh Government with a view to removing any misconception.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shifting of Western Railway Headquarters to Ahmedabad.

*658. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he stated at Ahmedabad on the 9th March, 1981 that a high power committee will soon be set up to study feasibility of shifting the Western Railway Headquarters from Bombay to Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the proposed shifting;

(c) how it will help the operational efficiency; and

(d) the anticipated outlay involved in the shifting and putting up new buildings for Offices and residence at Ahmedabad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.