

for talks on outstanding bilateral issues; and

(b) the progress made in the talks and the results achieved, if any?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Following the decision taken during discussions between the Bangladesh Foreign Minister and myself at New Delhi from September 11 to 13, 1981 Secretary level talks were held from January 13 to 15, 1982 at New Delhi between India and Bangladesh on some outstanding bilateral issues. Talks at the Secretaries level was preceded by technical level talks at the level of Additional Secretaries from January 9 to 12 on New Moore Island and on the delimitation of the maritime boundary.

2. It was for the first time that detailed and substantive discussions were held on New Moore Island between the two Governments. In conformity with their mandate, both sides agreed to discuss this matter again at an early date, in the light of the additional information made available and after an indepth examination thereof on the basis of relevant facts and principles.

3. On delimitation of the maritime boundary, the Bangladesh and Indian delegations reviewed their respective positions on the issue and decided to continue the dialogue with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable solution.

4. The terms of lease in perpetuity in respect of Tin Bigha were discussed at the level of Secretaries. No final agreement on lease terms was reached at this meeting. Discussions between the two Governments on this subject are expected to continue.

3576 L S—2

Fund to carry on the work of Second Hooghly Bridge

*77. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN:

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he assured the West Bengal State's Minister for Urban Development that he would request the Finance Ministry to grant a further sum of Rs. 3.3 crores to carry on work of the Second Hooghly Bridge till the end of the current financial year;

(b) if so, result thereof; and

(c) steps taken by the Government to release the amount as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Owing to financial constraints it has not been possible to release so far any additional amount for the bridge in question over and above Rs. 12 crores already released for this project during 1981-82.

News Item Captioned "Sorry State of Safdarjung Hospital"

*78. SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VEMRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news appearing in the Indian Express dated 22nd January, 1982 captioned "Sorry state of Safdarjung Hospital";

(b) whether Government are aware of the apathy of the doctors towards patients in the Emergency Ward where patients have to wait for hours together without medical care;