

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: For the last three or four years.

FASTER AIR SERVICE

*238. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: "Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the question of introducing faster air services within the country;

(b) whether Government have considered the desirability of linking district towns in the various States by regular air services; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for connecting industrial towns such as Durgapur, Asansol and Dhanbad by air routes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Corporation with their present equipment are not in a position to air-link district towns in the various States by regular air services.

(c) The Corporation are watching the prospects of an air service*to Durgapur and Asansol.

CONSULTANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT AT VIZAG PORT

*239. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Randel Palmer Tritton are working as consultants for the development of Iron Ore Handling Plant at Vizag Port; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of fees that is being paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) It is not correct that Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton are working as Consultants for the installation of the Iron Ore Handling Plant at Vishakhapatnam Port. They were engaged on an *ad hoc* basis only for the specific purpose of preparing a technical report on the tenders received by the India Supply Mission for the ore handling plant for consideration by the Technical Committee appointed by Government for scrutinising the tenders and making suitable recommendations to the India Supply Mission.

(b) A fee of Rs. 6500 is being paid to the firm.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: From the statement laid on the Table I find that Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton were deputed for the specific purpose of preparing a technical report on the tenders received by the India Supply Mission for the ore handling plant. May I know, Sir, what their recommendations were and whether the jobs were, allotted according to their recommendations or not?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: So far as this question is concerned, it relates to the employment of Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton for preparation of a technical report on the tenders received by the India Supply Mission for the erection of a ore handling plant, and that is what they were asked to do. The report has to be submitted to the Technical Committee which will take a decision.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: May I know, Sir, why they were paid Rs. 6,500 if their recommendations were not to be considered?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: No, Sir. They will be considered. They will present a formal technical report on