

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 Messrs. 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

the tenders received and, in fact, that will be the basis on which the Technical Committee on the Report will examine the whole report. That is how the matter stands.

PALAM AERODROME

***240. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether there is any village in between the two runways at Palam aerodrome and if so what arrangements have been made for the outlets of the villagers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): Yes, Sir. A sub-way has been constructed under the new runway at Palam. This subway gives the villagers a direct access to the Gurgaon Road.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRUGS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1960

***241. DR. JAWAHARLAL ROHATGI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the steps so far taken to enforce the Drug (Amendment) Act of 1960; and

(b) the steps taken for the appointment of staff, if any, to enforce the provisions of this Act?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) A notification has been issued bringing the provisions of the Drugs (Amendment) Act of 1960 into force with effect from the 16th March, 1961.

(b) The question of appointing staff by the Central Government is under consideration.

DR. JAWAHARLAL ROHATGI: May I know, Sir, why so much delay has taken place in the issue of notification relating to the Drugs Act?

DR. D. S. RAJU: There is no undue delay. It is taking its normal course.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON ZUND-KANDLA RAILWAY

***242. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the construction work on the Zund-Kandla Railway is progressing satisfactorily; and

(b) whether the work has been suspended and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b) Construction of the Jhund-New Kandla Railway Line has not yet been sanctioned. Traffic and Engineering Survey Reports submitted by the Railway are under examination by the Railway Board.

WAGONS WITHDRAWN FROM WESTERN RAILWAY

***243. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of wagons allotted to or belonging to the Western Railway which have been withdrawn from them during the last two years and allotted to other Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): On Indian Railways wagons are not allotted to individual Railways for their exclusive use and therefore the question of withdrawal of wagons from the Western Railway for transfer to other Railways does not arise.

The Indian Railways as a whole work as a composite system and each Railway is required to work to an inter-change wagon balance fixed from time to time according to the traffic requirements on different Railways.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a Zonal Consultative Committee of