

it is just possible that a proposal might have been made in the conference to which the hon. Member has just referred.

Shri Punnoose: May I ask whether this proposal will stand in the way of expediting the railway link between Ernakulam and Quilon?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No.

INTEGRATION OF AIR SERVICE COMPANIES

*314. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government have drawn up any scheme for the integration of Air Service Companies?

(b) If so, what is the nature of the scheme?

(c) If no scheme has been drawn up, is there any proposal for integration and if so, what is its nature?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The question of the future organisation of civil air transport in the country is under Government's consideration. I shall make a statement on the subject at the appropriate time.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether any enquiry has been conducted into the finances of these Companies?

Shri Raj Bahadur: All those points are under consideration. Enquiries as such have not been conducted, but from time to time the balance sheets come under examination.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether there is any proposal to nationalise air services?

Shri Raj Bahadur: All those things will be revealed in the statement.

Mr. Speaker: It is better to await the statement and not anticipate it.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I ask when we can have the statement?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think, Sir, in the very near future.

STOPPAGE OF AIR INDIA SERVICES

*315. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government have made any enquiries into the stoppage of Air India Services for some time?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No

formal enquiry was necessary. The Government of India kept itself in close touch with the daily developments of the situation in consultation with the Government of the State of Bombay.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know for what period there was stoppage of the services and whether Government had any information with regard to the strike and, if so, whether the Government took any steps for preventing that strike or for effecting any conciliation?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Government did not come into the picture very much. As a matter of fact, the strike began as early as 9th August, 1952 and ended on the 27th. It was for about eighteen days. We were watching the situation. But the whole matter was settled between the management and the workers.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether Government had any notice of the contemplated strike?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): No, the Government did not have any notice. As a matter of fact, the Central Government is not directly concerned. Labour disputes in air companies is a provincial subject, and it was being dealt with by the Bombay Government.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any conciliation was offered by the Conciliation Officer concerned and, if so, what was the result?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Conciliation and negotiations were constantly going on between the employees and the employers.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the fact that the air services go beyond the State limit, has the Government ascertained who are responsible for this stoppage?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, the whole matter was discussed at a press conference which Mr. Tata held, and if my hon. friend will go through the report of that press conference as published in newspapers at that time he will come to know about all these things in detail.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether Government have gone into the legitimate grievances of the workers which led to the strike?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The only grievance at that point was that the Labour Appellate Tribunal gave