

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

certain decisions, and the workers felt dissatisfied with that decision and went on strike. That was the only cause for the strike. The workers challenged the authority of the Tribunal, and there was no case for examination.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether the services were given over to other companies for working?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** During that period the other companies were authorised to work on these routes.

#### LOCUSTS SWARMS

\*316. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which were attacked by the recent locusts swarms giving the areas affected in each case;

(b) to what extent precautionary measures adopted by Government prevented the spreading of the swarms further and saved destruction of crops in those areas; and

(c) what has been the total cost of these measures incurred by the Central Government in the recent fighting operations?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) The States visited by swarms this year are: Rajasthan, Punjab, PEPSU, Uttar Pradesh, Ajmer, Delhi, Saurashtra and Bombay. The exact area attacked by these swarms is not available but breeding took place in about 80,000 square miles in Rajasthan, 1500 Sq. miles in Punjab, 350 Sq. miles in PEPSU, 150 Sq. miles in Bombay and 11 Sq. miles in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) But for the precautionary measures taken in the beginning of the present locust cycle, by expanding the existing Locust Warning Organisation adding to it a Control Wing including a wireless net work, acquiring dusting and spraying equipment and insecticides, arranging aerial spraying under the Point Four Programme thousands of locust swarms would have formed and devastated the States in Northern India. As it was only about half a dozen small swarms developed in India the damage to crops, on the whole, has been negligible.

(c) As far as can be estimated at present the total expenditure on these measures during the financial year 1952-53 will amount to about Rs. 25 lakhs.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether there has been an increase in the strategic places in Rajputana from where a strict watch is kept on the migrations and invasions of these locust swarms?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, I am not very clear as to what the question means. If it is meant whether at the present time the area has been more extensive, it is a fact.

**Shri S. N. Das:** There are several strategic places in Rajputana from where these invasions and attacks are made. I want to know whether there has been an increase in these strategic places.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir, there has been a tremendous increase.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the Government of India have been fighting defensive battles with these swarms of invaders or whether they have taken an offensive attitude and destroyed these invaders in their own places?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, mere defence would not have met the menace; we were on the offensive, and I hope the swarms have taken no offence.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** What is the estimated value of grains destroyed by these voracious insects?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** As I have said, it is a very negligible quantity.

**Shri Punnoose:** Are we to understand that the Government are not aware of the fact that big areas in Malabar and Travancore-Cochin have been attacked by locusts?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Government is not aware. We have not received any reports from Travancore-Cochin. There are different kinds of locusts.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether all the attacks during this period were fresh ones from foreign countries or whether there were swarms breeding here?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Most of them came from foreign countries, Sir.

#### RURAL MEDICAL RELIEF ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

\*317. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the Report of the Rural Medical Relief Enquiry Committee has been received and considered by Government?