

President of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, expressing his regret that the Government should have nominated a non-journalist to represent working journalists and who is associated with the Press Commission Report ?

Shri Abid Ali : Some such things are being published in newspapers, but I may submit these are far from facts.

STRIKE IN SHIPPING COMPANIES IN BOMBAY AREA

*2471. **Dr. J. N. Parekh :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Short Notice Question No. 16 on the 7th May, 1956 and state the steps taken to bring the situation arising out of strike of men of some shipping companies in Bombay to normality ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri) : An understanding has since been reached between Scindia Company and the Jahazi Mazdoor Union to refer the dispute to arbitration. As a result of this understanding, the strike was called off on the 8th May, 1956 and the situation is now reported to be normal.

Dr. J. N. Parekh : May I know the loss in man-hours and money as a result of this strike ?

Shri L. B. Shastri : I shall require notice.

Dr. J. N. Parekh : May I know when the findings are likely to be finalised ?

Shri L. B. Shastri : This is a matter not between the Government and the employees. It is a matter between the Scindias and the workers who are working with that company and it is for the company to decide about this as early as possible. I am told that the Chairman of that company and Shri Asoka Mehta have been appointed as arbitrators, and it is for them to submit their recommendations at an early date.

Shri Joachim Alva : After the strike in the Scindia and Bharat Steam Navigation company has ended, has Government conducted any enquiry into

the conditions of employment in the foreign companies which are operating at the Bombay and Calcutta ports ?

Shri L. B. Shastri : No, Sir.

AIR SERVICES

*2472. **Shri D. C. Sharma :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the foreign air services ; and

(b) if so, to which countries ?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : (a) and (b). Air India International's present equipment does not permit of any additional services to be operated. The Corporation is expecting one additional aircraft shortly, when it may start some additional services. Whether these services will be operated to countries to which the Air India International does not operate at present or whether the frequency of some of the existing services to various countries should be increased, has not yet been decided. The various possibilities are being explored.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know whether the operation of services to these foreign countries is contemplated under the Second Five Year Plan, and if so, what is the amount that is going to be spent on this ?

Shri Raj Bahadur : The expansion of our international services depends upon the equipment that we can acquire, and that is a continuous process, continuing from year to year, so the expansion depends upon the acquisition of new aircraft.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know if the Indo-U.K. negotiations are in any way standing in the way of the extension of our foreign services ?

Shri Raj Bahadur : I do not think that the Indo-U.K. negotiations in regard to the periodical review of the agreement with U.K. stands in any way in the way of the extension of our services.