

more. Nothing can be said from that.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there were complaints from businessmen in Madras and in the south that their applications for claims were registered subsequently so that they may be included in the next year, that is after the 1st of April?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No, Sir. The claims have been registered daily as and when they came.

Krishna-Godavari Water Dispute

*652. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press statement of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh that Centre must convene a conference of representatives of all the concerned States to solve the Krishna-Godavari water dispute; and

(b) if so, what action, if any, is being taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to convene such a conference after the report of the Gulhati Commission has been received and examined.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if the views of the other Chief Ministers of the concerned State have been ascertained whether they would like this conference to be convened before the Gulhati Commission finalises its report?

Shri Alagesan: There is no question of convening such a conference. This Commission itself was appointed as a result of a decision that was taken at an inter-State conference convened at the instance of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. After the Commission submits its report, then, its report, then, it will be time to convene such a conference.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it not a fact that these States want such a conference to be convened before the Gulhati Commission finalises its report?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. I am not aware of any such intention on the part of the various Chief Ministers.

Shri Thirumala Rao: In part (a) of the question, the words 'concerned States' are used. May I know what are the concerned States according to the Government of India of which reference is made to the Gulhati Commission?

Shri Alagesan: The agreement which was originally entered into was in the year 1951. Then, the concerned States were Madras, Mysore, the then Hyderabad State, Bombay, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. In fact, one of the concerned States, Orissa, was not a party to the agreement which was entered into.

Shri Thirumala Rao: The hon. Minister referred to the original agreement of 1951 when Madras was a composite State. The Andhra State separated in 1953. It does not at all figure in your correspondence also. Your answer is that it is Madras. In fact.....

Shri Alagesan: It figures very much.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Andhra State is concerned very much. I am explaining my question.

Shri Alagesan: It was very much there.

Shrimati Sarojini Mahishi: May I know when the Gulhati Commission is expected to submit its report?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. Lady Member does not require my permission to put the question. She has already put it. That may be answered.

Shri Alagesan: We expect them to submit their report by the end of July.

Shri Basappa: Is it not a fact that the Mysore Government have not ratified the agreement of 1951?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, it is true that that the Mysore Government which was a part to the conference did not subsequently sign that agreement.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What are the reasons for Government's apparent tendency to procrastinate, and their reluctance to take a firm line in such disputes, with the result that they assume undesirable, if not menacing, proportions? What are the reasons for the procrastination or the delay?

Shri Alagesan: There are a lot of suppositions in the hon. Member's question to which I should not subscribe. When there arises matter which concerns the interests of various States, naturally, we have to proceed with certain caution and care, and that is precisely what is being done in this matter.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: From the statement of the hon. Minister it appears that the Madras State is also one of the States, that is involved. May I know whether even after the partition of the old Madras State into Madras and Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government still maintains that Madras also is a party to this?

Shri Alagesan: That is not being maintained, but the Madras Government have made certain representations to the Gulati Commission, and the main purpose of the Gulati Commission is this. They have been asked to assess the available supplies in the two rivers of the Krishna and the Godavari, so that it will be possible to allocate the waters that will be available in these two rivers in as useful a proportion as possible.

Price of Sugar

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*653. { **Shri A. S. Saigal:**
 { **Shri D. N. Tiwary:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in several parts of the country such as Kanpur, Calcutta, etc. the price of sugar went very high in the market; and

(b) the reasons for such rise when the sugar is abundant in the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) Yes, Sir. There has been some rise in the market price of sugar.

(b) This is largely due to the release of new sugar in March-April this year. Being of better quality sellers demand higher price for it.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether it is a fact that the rise in prices occurred mostly after the quotas were allotted to the suppliers, when the mills made certain objections and afterwards took some more money and then only supplied the quota?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is not correct. The fact is as follows. Even when decontrol was introduced, it was understood that the prices would not be allowed to fall below a reasonable level. This industry is highly regulated. The minimum price of sugarcane is fixed. The wages are standardised. There is the payment of sugarcane cess to the State Governments. There is payment of excise duty to the Central Government. So, the Central Government have to see, when the leases are made—for, that is the only mechanism to regulate the prices, which is now vested with the Central Government—that these payments are also made, and that the prices prevail at a reasonable level so that the sugar industry, the sugarcane grower and the public at large are all benefited.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know why when there are regular releases....

Mr. Speaker: It appears as if the hon. Member is talking to the hon. Minister. I am the most concerned