

distance I have no precise information but I have read the denials of the people concerned

**Shri B. C. Kamble:** May I know whether the Government of India have studied

**Shri S. M. Banerje.** One question, Sir

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Mukerjee

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** As far as I recollect, in the newspaper report referred to in the question, there was a clause which said that Pakistan would be obstinately denying the truth of this kind of a report but that it was true. In view of this kind of statement from a foreign source and from a friendly country, may I know if special efforts are being made by the hon Prime Minister to make sure that this kind of thing is not done and that U.S.A. in particular, gives us very special guarantees in the matter?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We do our best to keep in touch with facts

**Shri B. C. Kamble.** May I know whether the Government of India have studied the significance of the shifting of the Pakistan capital? If so, with what result?

**Mr. Speaker.** Has that anything to do with this?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We have certainly been informed of it and we try to understand and find out the reasons for it

**Raja Mahendra Prasad:** My question has not been answered, namely, whether this base at Peshawar is directed against Afghanistan

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know

**Shri B. C. Kamble:** My question remains unanswered. I asked whether the significance of shifting of Pakistan capital has been studied and

if so, with what result. That has not been answered

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon Minister is not able to say anything about it

**Rise in Price of Sugar in Madras State**

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S.N.Q. { **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:**  
No. 18. { **Shri Warier:**  
          { **Shri Nagi Reddy:**  
          { **Shri Muhammed Elias:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the phenomenal rise in the price of sugar in the Madras State,

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that the traders are hoarding the stocks of sugar, and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ease the situation?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) Yes, Sir, there has been a rise in the price of sugar in Madras State

(b) From press reports it appears that there is a hoarding tendency both among the sugar trade and the consumer

(c) A meeting of the representatives of the four States in the South has been called to consider the situation

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** What quantity of stocks have been sent from Andhra to Madras State during these past few months and what are the reasons in Government's opinion for this scarcity?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It has been stated that the rise in prices is due to inadequate supplies from the Andhra Pradesh factories whose surplus was being taken up by the inflated demand within that State

**Shri Warier:** How much sugar has been hoarded in Madras State according to the Government's estimate?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** With regard to the State of Madras, its requirements are estimated to be about 10,000 tons per month. The release from the Madras factories comes to about 3,786 tons. That is for the current month. So the sugar must move from the surplus areas of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore.

**Mr. Speaker:** He only wanted to know if the hon. Minister has got an estimate of the quantity that has been hoarded in Madras.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** There is no such estimate.

**Shri Nagi Reddy:** May I know whether the Government is aware that due to the phenomenal rise in price of sugar, that is, from Rs 1½/- to Rs 2-8-0 per viss, the hotels in the whole of Madras State have raised the price of a cup of coffee? Is Government prepared to take immediate steps to eliminate this situation?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I am not aware of any rise in the price of coffee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Many consequences flow out of that. Coffee is one.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** It affects the common man.

**An. Hon. Member:** This is very serious.

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that as a result of the scarcity of sugar the price of country sugar and jaggery has also gone up? What steps do they propose to take to check that rise?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** That is a fact. It is not possible at all to control the prices of gur and other country sugar.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The hon. Minister was pleased to say that the demand from the Andhra Government was inflated. May I know what was the normal demand in Andhra for sugar and what is the new figure of inflation?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It has been estimated that the Andhra State requires about 6250 tons per month. The present requirement is estimated to be more than 8000 tons.

**Shri Narasimhan:** The Minister stated that there was going to be a conference of three States. When and where will it take place?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Shortly, on the 6th and 7th; here in New Delhi.

**Shri Subbiah Ambalam:** May I know whether any representation has been received by this Government from the South Indian Sugar Mills Association and the Madras Government to the effect that the quantity that is allowed to be released per month at the rate of 28,000 tons per month is only sufficient for the next two months and unless supply is effected from the North for the month of November, practically no stock will be available for supply to the local people? May I know what steps Government are taking to release stocks for the month of November?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** In normal circumstances, the South Indian States taken together are more or less self-sufficient in the matter of sugar, because the requirements are estimated to be about 27,500 tons. We have been releasing at the rate of 28,000 tons per month. Normally, it should be sufficient to meet the requirements of all the States. The rise in the prices in the south has been more or less a recent development. It might have been sympathetic rise because sugar prices in the north have gone up. There has been representation from the South Indian Sugar Mills Association. They estimated in June that the consumption requirements would be about 27,500 tons. Now, they say that with the increase in demand, the requirements will be something more, and there must be an additional allotment from the north. As the hon. House knows, the sugar position in the north also is rather tight.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Next question. I have allowed a number of questions.

**National and Grindlays Bank Dispute**

S.N.Q. No 11. Shri Keshava: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report of the mediator who was appointed to help the settlement of dispute between the employees of the National and Grindlays Bank Ltd and its management;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether this has resulted in any salutary effect; and

(d) if so, whether this course will be adopted in respect of such disputes in the private sector as well?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes

(b) to (d) The mediation has failed

Shri Joachim Alva: Is the hon. Minister aware that during the course of the strike at the Connaught Circus branch of the Grindlay's bank, the workers got on the tables of the executives and managers and kept on shouting creating a very unfavourable impression in the minds of the outsiders? What assistance was given to the bank when the workers created such an ugly scene?

Shri Abid Ali: Report to this effect were received. Sometimes the help of the police also was sought.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether it is a fact that due to the refusal of the management to accept the mediator's terms, the mediation has failed?

Shri Abid Ali: Mediation has failed. That is the report of the mediator nothing more.

Shri Keshava: In view of the fact that mediation has failed, what further steps do the Government propose to take in this matter?

Shri Abid Ali: There was the question of referring the matter to adjudication.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the mediator Shri V. K. J. Manon has suggested that those six employees who were dismissed must be taken back and the management refused to take them back and that is the reason why mediation has failed?

Shri Abid Ali: The mediator was appointed. It was informal mediation. The mediation has failed and he has said, as I said earlier, I beg to report that mediation has failed. Nothing more, nothing less.

Shri Tangamani: I would like to know the reasons.

Mr. Speaker: The mediator has not given the reasons.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it that there was only one sentence in the report?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: After the failure of the mediation as stated by the hon. Minister, I want to know when the Labour Ministry is going to refer it to adjudication and the causes of the failure of mediation.

Shri Abid Ali: After the report of the mediator, the Union representatives were called and the question of referring the matter to adjudication and the terms of reference, etc., were discussed with them. They wanted some time to give reply. Still their reply is awaited.

Shri Prabhat Kar: In view of the fact that the Labour Minister has explained today that the policy will be one of mediation, may I know whether it has been ascertained why the first effort of the Labour Ministry has failed?

Shri Abid Ali: We have had mediation on several occasions previously also and successfully too. Because it is informal private mediation, what the parties contend before the mediator need not be made public. Certainly so far as I am concerned, I am not aware of it.