

of Rs. 30 after which he said he would send the telegram but by the time he came back, with the money, the Telegraph Master had closed the office?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The working hours of the Telegraph Office might have come to a close.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Government institute an enquiry into this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahanty, it is a concession which the Postmaster made by asking the person to go and bring Rs. 30. It was not his duty. When a man does not bring the money, he has to go.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: He can go and come back. If the All-India Service are a party to this.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you say that they are a party because they advised him to bring Rs. 30?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Was this Rs. 90 required for all the telegrams that were to be sent or for only one telegram?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I don't think there was any dispute in regard to the calculated amount of the charges.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The persons to whom the telegrams were addressed were numerous—the President, U.P.I. and others as you mentioned. Was the charge of Rs. 90 for all the telegrams or was it only for one of the telegrams?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Again for the information of the hon. Member I say that the telegram was as big as 680 words. It was a Sunday, it was 23 hours and so the charges must have accumulated to that amount.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dhage, the point is, the servant who took the telegram was told "You have got only Rs. 60". Perhaps, he did not have the authority to say 'Kindly send the first, don't send the second, etc'

CONSUMPTION AND IMPORT OF SUGAR

*278. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar consumed in the country during the years 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953, and

(b) what steps are being taken to increase the production of sugar within the country?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The consumption of crystal sugar during the years 1949-50 to 1952-53 was as under: —

	(In lakh tons)
1949-50	... 10-09
1950-51	... 10-79
1951-52	... 11-63
1952-53	... 16-56

(b) Increase in the production of sugar depends upon the increase in the supply and/or improvement in quality of sugar-cane to the factories. During the current year, with a view to enable the sugar factories in the Western U.P., to attract more cane, it has been suggested to them that they should pay Re. -/4/- per maund of cane over and above the minimum price of Rs. 1/7/- per maund with effect from 8-3-1954. This extra payment will be adjustable against the share of the cane-growers under the profit sharing scheme when finalised at the end of the season.

As a long term measure, Government propose to allow installation of new sugar factories having an aggregate annual production capacity of 4-5 lakh tons. Further, with a view to increasing yield per acre and sucrose content of cane, Sugar-cane Development Schemes are already in operation in the various sugar producing States.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What is likely to be the sugar consumption in 1953-54?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It should be, according to our calculations more than 17 lakh tons.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What is going to be the deficit?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The deficit has not been fully calculated but we are trying to import 5 lakh tons.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: What will this 5 lakh tons of sugar cost?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The quantity and the price of what we imported in 1953 have been given on the floor of the House. It is a matter of calculation.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: What is **it**? One cannot remember. Can the hon. Minister say what the cost is likely to be?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It will take some time before I can reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will give after working out the cost.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: How many months do these sugar mills usually work in a year?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It varies from about 90 days to something like 135 days.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Do Government consider the desirability of importing raw sugar instead of finished sugar?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: That has been considered but I am not in a position to disclose what the decision is.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if the per *capita* consumption of sugar in these 3 years had reached the level of per capita consumption before the war say in 1939?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have not got the figures for the purpose of comparison.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What quantities of sugar were exported to the Western countries during these years?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Nil. It was in 1951-52 that we had 11,000 tons exported, and about 700 tons in 1952-53. and nil this year.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What was the-quantity imported in those years?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I want notice. I don't think any large quantity was imported before 1952-53.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if it will be disputed by the Government if I say that the per *capita* consumption of sugar in these years is much less than what it was before the war?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: May or may not be. The consumption in 1952-53 as compared to 1951-52 has gone up.

SHRI B. GUPTA: I am not concerned with that. My question is: Is he in a position to say 'No' to the suggestion that I have made?

(No reply.)

SHRI B. GUPTA: He does not answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has no information.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: The consumption in 1951-52 is 11-63 lakh tons and that in 1952-53 is 16-56 lakh tons. What was the reason for this sudden increase?

AN HON. MEMBER: Decontrol.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: As somebody suggests from behind, decontrol is probably a reason. It may also be due to the fact that for some time during last year and the present year also, gur prices had been rather high and the production also was short, so far

jus gur is concerned. So probably some gw eaters had become sugar eaters.

PANDIT S. DUBE: Is it not a fact that sugar consumption increased in Bombay because of the strict enforcement of prohibition and so more money was available to the consumer?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have no information.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know the amount of sugar consumed for sugar-coating the speeches of the Food Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, Mr. Vali-ulla.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is all for the benefit of the Opposition. (Laughter.)

ROAD OVER-BRIDGE NEAR SABZIMANDI, DELHI

*279. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway has sent any proposal for the construction of a road over-bridge over the railway line near Subzimandi, Delhi; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government on this proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the residents of the locality made a representation to the General Manager, Northern Railway asking for the over-bridge?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They wanted a foot over-bridge at SuDzimandi Railway Station and also a city booking agency. Provision for a foot over-bridge was included in the works

programme for 1953-54, and other amenities such as raised platform have been provided. The station has also been electrified.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION

*280 SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the assistance given to India by the Food and Agricultural Organisation in the year 1952-53 and up to date in the year 1953-54?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): The technical assistance given to India during the two years 1952 and 1953 amounted to approximately Rs. 20 lakhs. (The F.A.O. assistance is given by calendar years.)

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is the assistance given by the Food and Agricultural Organisation merely technical assistance? Is any other kind of assistance also given by the F.A.O.?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The assistance of the F.A.O. is purely technical assistance. There is no other assistance given by the F.A.O.

RICE CULTIVATION ACCORDING TO JAPANESE METHOD

*281. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the increase in the production of rice in each State in the year 1953, as a result of the adoption of the Japanese method of rice cultivation?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): The required information has been called for from the State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Sir, this question was tabled in December 1953 and the answer given then was:

"As the harvesting of paddy crop is still in progress and will con-