

force uniform rates all over India. May I know whether that intention is still being implemented?

Haji Mohammad Ibrahim: My hon. friend is putting into my mouth something which I have not said. I have never said that we are going to introduce uniform rates throughout the whole of India. I think it is an impossibility; it cannot be achieved. We can try to achieve it to the extent possible.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I suggest that S.Q. No. 55 may also be taken up, as it relates to the same subject.

Mr. Speaker: It may also be taken up if the hon. Minister has no objection.

Export of Sugar

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*51. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

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

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to step up the export of sugar during this year; and

(b) the results achieved?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Every effort is being made to step up export of sugar by booking business wherever possible and securing quota from U.S.A. which is highly preferential market.

(b) A quota of 50,000 short tons has been obtained from U.S.A. for immediate shipment and 1.05 lakh metric tons have been sold for export to Canada, Malaya and Middle East countries for shipment mostly upto 30th June. Further sales are in progress. Nearly 46,000 metric tons have been exported during January—March against sales made last year.

Sugar Purchase by U.S.A.

*55. { **Shri Osman Ali Khan:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Aasad:
Shri Basappa:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

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

(a) whether the U.S. Agriculture Department has of late offered to purchase increased quantities of sugar during the ensuing six months;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) on what terms?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). U.S.A. has agreed to import 50,000 short tons of sugar during the first half of 1962, against purchase of cotton.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The hon. Deputy Minister was pleased to say that further sales are in progress. May I know the nature of those further sales and the countries to which those sales are made?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We cannot now say to which countries we are going to sell. As there is no quota restriction, we can now sell to any country which wants it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the rates at which sugar is supplied to U.S.A. are different from the rates at which sugar is supplied to other countries? If so, what is the discrepancy between the rates obtainable in U.S.A. and in other countries?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The approximate realisation on sugar per ton which is exported to the United States of America is roundabout Rs. 550 whereas for sales in the world market we realise only about Rs. 350. Our cost of production comes to about Rs. 800.