

and 1952-53 till the 30th November, 1953; and

(b) the stock of sugar lying with the mills on the 30th November, 1953?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The total off-take of sugar for internal consumption during each of the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53, was as under:—

(figures in lakh tons)

1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
10.79	11.63	16.56

(b) The stock of sugar lying with the mills at the close of 30th November, 1953, amounted to 1.36 lakhs tons.

SUGAR-CANE

688. Shri Sinhasan Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of sugar-cane supplied to the mills in 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The quantity of sugar-cane crushed by the sugar factories during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 was as follows:—

(figures in lakh tons)

1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
109.7	154.9	131.7

TUBE-WELLS

689. Shri S. C. Singhal: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of contracts that have been given by the Ministry for the construction of tube-wells during the last three years and what are the names of the firms to whom contracts were given?

(b) How many of them were Indian and how many non-Indian firms?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No contract has been given to any firm by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. During the period in question nine contracts were, however, awarded by the Governments of U.P., Bihar, Punjab,

PEPSU and Bombay to the following firms.

- (i) M/s. Associated Tubewells Ltd.—4 contracts.
- (ii) M/s. Harold T. Smith Inc.—3 contracts.
- (iii) M/s. German Water Development Corporation—I contract.
- (iv) M/s. National Tubewells Ltd.—1 contract.

(b) First three are non-Indians and the fourth is Indian.

INSPECTOR OF POST OFFICES

690. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the failed candidates in the examination held in 1952 or 1953 for promotion to Inspector of Post Offices in the Hyderabad Sub-Circle were declared to have passed by lowering the qualifying marks?

(b) If so, what were the reasons?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) Selection is made on Circle basis and there was shortage of qualified Inspectors of Post Offices in Hyderabad. Sufficient candidates did not qualify under the regular standard. The shortage has, therefore, been made up in this manner.

RAILWAY THEFTS

691. Pandit S. C. Mishra: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many cases of thefts have occurred between Mokamah and Kiul Junctions of the Eastern Railway from January to November, 1953?

(b) Does it compare favourably or unfavourably with the average for the same distance in other sections of the Eastern Railway?

(c) Have the watch and ward staff of this section been increased and what other steps have been taken to check the thefts?