

SUGAR

401. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government anticipate any shortage of sugar, for consumption in India and if so, to what extent; and

(b) in view of the anticipated shortage of sugar, how Government propose to maintain stability in wholesale and retail prices?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) No shortage in internal production will be made up by imports.

(b) With a view to maintaining continuity in the supply of sugar and stability in its prices, Government have decided:

(i) to import sugar from abroad;

(ii) to supply sugar throughout the country out of its reserve stock and from the quantities imported from abroad, at a uniform rate of Rs. 31 per maund f.o.r. destination and to reduce this price to Rs. 30 per maund with effect from 16th May, 1954;

(iii) to advise the factories to expedite despatches of sugar already released for free sale;

(iv) to advise stockists to clear their stocks by May 31, 1954, and to requisition uncleared stocks of sugar from stockists, as and where necessary, after that date.

POST-MASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
CALCUTTA

402. **Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of contractors and suppliers of various items under the Post-Master-General, Calcutta;

(b) the number who have been blacklisted;

(c) whether any of them has been given contracts or supply orders again by the Post-Master-General, Calcutta; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Two hundred and thirty-one.

(b) Three.

(c) One.

(d) On consideration of the representation made by the firm.

VILLAGE LEVEL WORKERS

403. { **Shri Y. M. Mukne:**
Shri Natawadkar:
Shri B. K. Patel:

(a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what stipends are given to gram sevaks or village level workers during the course of training?

(b) How are they selected?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A stipend of Rs. 50 p.m. has been sanctioned for each trainee during the training period. The State Governments, however, have the discretion to vary it according to local conditions and the actual rate accordingly varies from State to State.

(b) The prescribed procedure for the selection is as follows but certain States have made slight modifications to suit local conditions:

"Initial selection is made by the State Government, of 20 per cent. more than the number of candidates required, through a selection Board especially constituted for the purpose. The main features of the selection are an aptitude test and an interview to judge the personality, physical fitness and general knowledge etc. of the candidates. After admission to the Training Centre a record of the day to day progress of each individual trainee both in the class and in field is maintained through