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**LOK SABHA**

Thursday, 28th April, 1955

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock*

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**SUGAR**

\*2658. **Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar during 1954-55 is expected to be 40 per cent. higher than that in 1953-54;

(b) whether the off-take from the sugar factories during the current season has shown a downward tendency and if so, by how much;

(c) the total stocks held by the factories as well as Government on the 31st March, 1955;

(d) the total quantity of sugar Government have already purchased in foreign countries, but which is yet to arrive in India; and

(e) the quantity proposed to be purchased by Government during 1955-56?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) to (e). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 49].

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether there is any increase in acreage?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am proud to say that without hardly any addition to the acreage last year, we

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are likely to produce more than 15 lakh tons of sugar this year as compared to 10 lakh tons last year.

**Shri S. N. Das:** In view of the increased production, may I know whether the Government propose to stop the import of sugar?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir. Excepting where we are committed already we do not propose to import.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** If the Government's contention all along during the last one year or so was that the *per capita* consumption of crystal sugar is going up, how is it that the offtake is very much less than last year from the factories?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** This convention of sugar is a very tricky affair, because just as the prices between *gur* and sugar vary, the consumption also varies. Therefore, I do not trust the figures that I get so far as consumption of sugar is concerned. There are many gaps and many difficulties in between.

**Shri Nevatia:** Will Government agree to cancel or delay the despatch of imported sugar so that the prices may be maintained at a reasonable level?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We are prepared to do it as far as possible.

**12-CHANNEL CARRIER SYSTEM**

\*2659. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 684 on the 2nd December, 1954 and lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the number of orders of the 12-Channel Carrier System placed so far on the Automatic Telephone and Electric Company Limited;