7. Sugar production has been tending upwards in all regions. In the five principal exporting countries sugar production increased from 6.02 million metric tons in the 1934/38 period to 9.45 million metric tons in 1954/58, which represents an increase of about 57 per cent. At the same time exports from the same five countries increased from 5.18 million metric tons in 1934/38 to almost 8 million metric tons in 1954/58, representing an increase of about 54 per cent. The production pattern of the five principal importing countries shows the following corresponding figures: production expanded from 4.54 million metric tons to 6.48 million metric tons, which constitutes a 43 per cent increase. Similarly, imports rose from 7.17 million metric tons to 8.34 million metric tons, constituting a 16 per cent increase. While in the five principal exporting countries all the sugar produced comes from sugar cane, in the five principal importing countries cane sugar output accounted for 1.31 million tons in 1934-38 and for 1.48 million tons in 1954-58 whereas beet sugar rose from 3.23 to 5.00 million tons in the two periods; the relative increase in production of the latter countries was 13 per cent in respect of sugar cane and 55 per cent in respect of sugar beet (both in terms of raw sugar). Production of beet sugar, which is substantially protected in many countries and may lead to self-sufficiency in some, appears to be rising faster than cane sugar, as output of the latter is controlled in certain countries due to the decline in the opportunities for selling to former import markets. In some countries production has been rising; for example, in the Federal Republic of Germany production, expressed in millions of metric tons, rose from 0.56 in 1938.
to 0.83 in 1952 and to 1.39 in 1959, while imports declined from 0.53 in 1952 to 0.27 in 1959. In the latter year production, expressed as a percentage of domestic consumption, reached 103 per cent, by contrast with only 61 per cent in 1952. At the same time Germany has limited sales of domestically-produced sugar and has imported considerable quantities of sugar; imports of sugar beets into the Federal Republic have been liberalized and are free from taxes. In this connexion reference might be made to measures applied recently in certain countries, such as the United States, for extending the subsidized producing areas. Production in the United States is regulated, however, within the framework of legislation which reserves a substantial share of the United States market for foreign suppliers.