

(a) the number of Postal complaints lodged by the people in the North East during the last three years;

(b) the number of complaints redressed during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the Postal services in the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) and (b) The total number of postal complaints lodged and redressed in the North East during the last three years are given as under:—

Year	Brought forward	No. of Complaints received	No. of Complaints settled	Pending
1995-96	2424	21128	20885	2667
1996-97	2667	21971	22635	2003
1997-98	2003	26895	25535	3363

(c) With a view to improving postal services in the North East focussed attention has been given to developmental programmes in the region with 10% of the Department's budgetary support for Plan activities exclusively earmarked for the purpose. During the Eight Five Year Plan, focus of developmental activity was under three broad schemes, viz: expansion of postal network, modernisation of postal services and constructions of postal buildings and staff Quarters. In the annual plan programme for 1998-99, these activities are being pursued further alongwith additional programme of modernisation of public grievance handling system, improvement of mail conveyance & human resource development through training.

Development of Rice

2889. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian agricultural scientists have developed such a variety of rice/paddy which could mature within 60 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said paddy seed is likely to be made available to farmers in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. Indian agricultural scientists have not so far developed rice variety that matures in 60 days. But varieties which mature in 65 to 70 days are available.

(b) The details of the varieties that mature in 65-70 days are as below:—

Sattari—It matures in 65 days and has an average yield of 2t/ha. It was released in 1983.

Heera—It matures in 68 days and gives an average yield of 3t/ha. It was released for general cultivation in Orissa in 1988.

Kalyani II—It mature in 70 days and yield 1 t/ha. It was released in 1988 for general cultivation in Orissa.

Turranta Dhan—It matures in 70 days and give an average yield of 3 t/ha. It has been released for general cultivation in Bihar in 1997.

(c) Heera is recommended in Orissa, Sattari in Orissa and West Bengal and Turranta Dhan in Bihar; and these are already under cultivation. The breeder seed for Heera and Sattari is being produced by Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack and that of Turranta Dhan by Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa. This breeder seed is supplied to various seed producing agencies for further seed multiplication for general cultivation by the farmers.

Rural Youth for Self-Employment

2890. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete efforts being made by the Government to provide facilities to the rural youths for self-employment through setting up of food processing industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government are promoting the processing industries based on agricultural produce like foodgrains, pulse, fruits, vegetables, oil seeds etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof;