

(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 Complots received	No. of Complots 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;

(d) whether the Government propose to restrict the entry of multinational companies and big industrial houses in processing industries based on agricultural products;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to give more concession to small scale food processing industries in rural areas; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) For the growth, development and promotion of processed food industry, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grants-in-aid under its plan schemes. The rural youth can take advantage of these schemes for self employment.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) The general concessions for Small Scale Sector are also available to the Food Processing Industrial Units in this Sector.

NCDC

2891. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal of various projects received by the National Co-operative Development Corporation from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Madhy Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) the stage at which these proposals are pending; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken thereon by NCDC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Soyabean Cultivation

2892. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had a proposal to increase Soyabean cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regarding during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to adopt any new strategy to increase the production of Soyabean during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target set for increasing additional hectares of land and the quantum of additional production envisaged for that plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is being implementing for increasing the production of oilseeds including Soyabean. During the Eight Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 464 crores was spent on the implementation of the Scheme.

(c) and (d) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is continuing in 23 States covering 374 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds including Soyabean. The new strategies proposed during the Ninth Five Year Plan include expansion of the seed production programme and micro-irrigation like the sprinkler system. One of the strategies being adopted under OPP for the expansion of area is through sequential cropping, inter-cropping, replacement of low economy crop and as substitute crops in problematic area/situation. Separate targets have not been set either for the area expansion or for production of Soyabean, but a target of oilseeds production has been fixed at 30 million tonnes by the terminal year of the Ninth Plan.

Ban on use of Oxytocin

2893. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHAL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cows and buffaloes are being injected with oxytocin in some areas for increasing the milk output;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any directions to State Government to impose ban on the use of said injection;

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government against violators; and