

Ragi in the country during the last three years is as given below:—

Year	Production (Lakh tonnes)
1994-95	23.42
1995-96	25.01
1996-97	24.74

(b) and (c) The production of Ragi is declining mainly because of the shift in area from Ragi to other more remunerative crops.

(d) and (e) For increasing the production and productivity of cereals including the Ragi, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice, ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereals) are being implemented. Through these programmes incentives are being given to the farmers on the use of quality seeds, farm implements, sprinkler sets so as to encourage the adoption of improved cereals/Ragi production technology in respective areas. Besides, for the effective technology transfer, farmer's trainings and field demonstrations are also being organised. For popularising newly released varieties seed minikits of Ragi are being distributed under the Central Sector "Minikit Demonstration programme and popularisation of new technology".

Development of Electronic Technology

3157. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to promote and develop appropriate electronic technologies for the agricultural sector and rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Electronics through its sponsored projects have developed measurement techniques for various parameters such as soil moisture salinity & nutrient, grain moisture, plant physiology, seed testing and automatic drip irrigation system. These projects have

led to the development of low cost, easy to use and rugged instruments for the agriculture sector. Information Technology through Geographical Information System (GIS), Data base Management System (DBMS) etc. is being used in the execution of watershed development projects for rural development.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending Projects of Assam

3158. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects submitted by Government of Assam for approval are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, since when these projects are pending with the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Planning Commission have no projects submitted by Government of Assam pending for approval.

[Translation]

Bhander Inter-State Project

3159. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any agreement between the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh regarding sharing of water of the Bhandar River Inter-State Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh is violating the agreement and not supplying water to Madhya Pradesh as per the agreement;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government are likely to direct the Government of Uttar Pradesh to supply water to Madhya Pradesh as per the said agreement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?