

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) No such matter has been reported to the Centre.

[English]

Public Grievances

3160. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which the Directorate of Public Grievances has been functioning at the centre; and

(b) the number and nature of cases handled by the above office during the last three years indicating the number of cases disposed off and number of them pending as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The directorate of Public Grievances has been functioning in the Cabinet Secretariat since 1st April, 1996.

(b) The Directorate takes up cases of individuals in respect of 12 Ministries/Departments/Organisations which are under its jurisdiction. It does not deal with the policy matters, service matters (excluding terminal benefits like gratuity, GPF etc.), commercial contracts, cases which are sub-judice in Courts, Consumer Fora, Monopolies and Restrictive Trade practices Commission (MRTPC) and Railway Claim cases. The Ministries/departments/Organisations under its purview are:

- (1) Ministry of Railways and their undertakings;
- (2) Department of Posts;
- (3) Department of Telecom including Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;
- (4) Banking Division of the Department of Economic Affairs including Public Sector Banks;
- (5) Insurance Division and National Savings Scheme Division of the Department of Economic Affairs including Public Sector Insurance Companies viz. LIC, GIC and their subsidiaries;

(6) Ministry of Urban Affairs including DDA, CPWD and Directorate of Estates;

(7) Ministry of Surface Transport and their undertakings;

(8) Ministry of Civil Aviation including Airports Authority, Indian Airlines and Air India;

(9) Regional Passport Authority under Ministry of External Affairs;

(10) Employees Provident Fund Organisations under Ministry of Labour;

(11) Central Government Health Scheme under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and

(12) Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospitals and dispensaries directly managed by ESIC under Ministry of Labour.

Grievances which do not fall under the purview of Directorate of Public Grievances are transferred to concerned Ministries/Departments/State Governments for taking appropriate action.

The number of cases received during the last 3 years, disposed of and pending are as follows:—

Year	No. received	Number taken up	Number transferred to other Min/ Depts./State Govts.	Number disposed of	Number pending
1995-96	4584	1185	3399	1185	0
1996-97	5544	1236	4308	1228	8
1997-98	5010	1683	3327	1292	391

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

3161. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council for Cultural Relations propose to review the activities of cultural centres established in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?