

are Regional Offices and Sub-Regional Office, we are concerned with the spurt that is taking place in poaching especially in regard to elephants. Tigers, rhinos and some other major animals. We will consider this. That has not been looked into and we shall look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Government aware that the tribals living in forests have according to their tradition a cultural right of hunting on festive occasions? They hunt animals. The forest officials initiate prosecution proceedings against them even for such huntings. Will the Government safeguard the cultural right of the tribals? Will the Government take steps to see that no prosecution proceeding is initiated against them when they hunt in their traditional way?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members has raised a very important issue. I will definitely consider it.

#### WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### Operation Blackboard

\*183. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:  
SHRIMATI SAROJ  
DUBEY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a programme for the extension of Operation Blackboard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by

the government to implement this programme effectively; and

(d) the time limit fixed for the implementation of this programme throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

It is proposed to continue the Scheme of Operation Blackboard to cover all the remaining primary schools as well as to expand the scheme to provide 3 rooms and 3 teachers to schools where enrolment warrants them. It is also proposed to extend this scheme to cover the upper primary schools during the 8th Plan subject to availability of funds.

It is proposed to take the following steps to implement the scheme effectively:-

- (i) Special training programmes will be designed to train teachers in using the supplied materials.
- (ii) State Govts. will be persuaded to provide's contingency expenses for replacement of teaching learning equipment.
- (iii) Flexibility will be provided for purchase of materials relevant to the curriculum and the local needs.
- (iv) To encourage girls' enrolment and

retention, at least 50% women teachers will be appointed.

### **Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations**

184. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had chalked out special programme to celebrate the Birth Centenary of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Railways: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### **STATEMENT**

The details of celebrations of the Birth Centenary of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the Railways are given below:

- (i) Holding of seminar at Headquarters stations of the Zones and Divisions on the Railways and Production Units by inviting eminent personalities to discuss the thoughts/ideas of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar amongst the Railwaymen.
- (ii) Displaying the thoughts of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar prominently at the stations/offices and in Railway colonies.
- (iii) Printing "Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Centenary Year 1990-91" at the back of Computerised tickets.

(iv) To launch special literacy drive for Group 'D' employees on the Railways under the National Literacy Drive Programme.

(v) Increasing of percentage of scholarships sanctioned from Staff Benefit Fund for the children of SC/ST employees from 12.5 per cent to 15 per cent for SC employees and from 5 to 7.5 per cent for ST employees.

(vi) Launching of multi-purpose drive including immunisation programme for the children of Railway employees and upkeep and maintenance of Railway colonies by medical/civil and electrical engineering staff.

(vii) Liquidating the backlog quota for the scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Group 'C' and Group 'D' categories.

[English]

### **Population Growth**

185. DR. D VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have examined the study report prepared by Population Reference Bureau on the trend of India's population growth;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated to check the population growth effectively?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIM.L.FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). According to the report entitled "1992 world Population Data sheet of the