

ernments during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the names of the various districts in Bihar, where this programme has been implemented and the extent of amount spent during the above period;

(c) the year-wise number of women in Bihar benefited under this scheme till 31st January, 1992; and

(d) the amount proposed to be allocated to Bihar for this purpose during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d). UNICEF have informed that they do not assist any programme entitled "Gram Shiksha Karyakram" in Bihar or any other state, being run jointly by the Union Government, State Government and UNICEF. However pre-project activities of Bihar Education Project were initiated in three districts of Rohtas, West Champaran and Ranchi. An Amount of Rs. 1.81 crores was released by UNICEF in the year 1991-92. It is too early to specify the number of beneficiaries. In the Budget for 1992-93, an amount of Rs. 12 crores has been proposed for the Bihar Education Project.

Expenditure on Aerial Seeding

3347. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH BODLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on aerial seeding measures in afforestation programmes during the last three years; and

(b) the success rate of such aerial seeding programmes in terms of the expenditure incurred vis-a-vis other afforestation measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Total Central assistance provided to the States for Aerial Seeding during the three year period from 1988-89 to 1990-91 was Rs. 4.66 crores.

(b) The success rate of aerial seeding operation of not comparable with normal plantation operations; aerial seeding is not like silviculture, horticulture or agriculture operations, which are conducted under controlled conditions, whereas aerial seeding is not executed under similar conditions. Moreover, it is possible to assess the success of a plantation programme on the basis of saplings actually planted and the plants that survive. The same yard-stick cannot be applied to aerial seeding, which involves release of seed from the air. The cost norms of the two operations are also significantly different. The Central assistance provided for aerial seeding work under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the National Wastelands Development Board is limited to Rs. 650 per hectares whereas the cost of afforestation normally varies from Rs. 7000 to Rs. 10,000 per hectare.

[Translation]

Review of operation blackboard programme

3348. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of Operation Blackboard programme;