

conomic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Government of Japan. The total cost of the project is Rs. 107 crores for covering an area of 61400 ha. and distribution of 10 million seedlings in the Indira Gandhi Canal area in Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan. The main objectives of the project are protection of canals, and agriculture fields from the desert sands, meeting the local needs of fuel and fodder and provision of employment opportunities to the local people, etc. Upto December 92, an expenditure of Rs. 14. 47 crores had been incurred with area coverage of 11,878 hectares.

The aforesaid Project is approved for implementation till March 1995.

[English]

#### Book Stalls at Stations

1872. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision that contracts regarding setting up of book stalls at certain railway stations will not be awarded to unemployed graduates and their groups;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the norms adopted in this regard; and

(c) the number of such railway stations, zone - wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS ( SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir. Extant instructions, infact, give preference of high order to Co-operative Societies, Partnerships, Associations of Unemployed Graduates and individual Unemployed Graduates in fresh allotments, keeping in view various related factors including congestion on platforms, etc.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Operation Black Board

1873. SHRI ANNA JOSHI :  
SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:

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

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Maharashtra for the construction of clas rooms under Operation Black Board Programme during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of class rooms constructed in Maharashtra during 1991 and 1992 so far;

(c) whether the Government have received any demand from Maharashtra for financial assistance under the said programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ( SHRI ARJUN SINGH ) (a). The details of financial assistance provided to Maharashtra for the construction of class rooms under

Operation B lackboard scheme is given below :-

( Rs. in lakhs )

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| 1990 -91  | -        |
| 1991 - 92 | -        |
| 1992 -93  | 302 . 81 |

(b) The number of class rooms con-