

under the Government of India is in operation in the District of Darbhanga in Bihar ;

(b) if so, since when and the progress made so far by the said project ; and

(c) what is being contemplated to overcome the difficulties in the way of its progress ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Intensive Educational District Development Project has been in operation in Darbhanga since June, 1970. Occupational and educational surveys are being completed. On the basis of the results of these surveys, Project Report will be prepared. The programmes to be initiated in the District will be finalised on the basis of the Project Report. Last year, some advance action programmes were initiated.

(c) No difficulties have so far been reported.

Scheme to Encourage Research in Folk Art

3814 **SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM :** Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any schemes to encourage researches directly or through Universities in the matter of folk arts ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY) : (a) The Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous organisation set up by the Government of India, has a scheme for encouraging researches directly and through cultural institutions in the folk arts in the fields of dance, drama and music. The Government has, however, no separate scheme for the purpose.

(b) The main features of the scheme implemented by the Sangeet Natak Akademi are as follows :

(i) Financial assistance for conducting

survey and research projects ;

(ii) Financial assistance for bringing out research publications ;

(iii) Collection of research material to promote research.

Development of Folk Dances and Folk Songs

3815. **SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM :** Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any programme under Government's consideration to help develop folk dances and folk songs of the different communities of India ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY) : (a) The Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous organisation set up by the Government of India, has chalked out a programme for the development and preservation of the folk dances and folk songs of the different communities in India. No separate programme is under consideration of the Government for the purpose.

(b) The main features of the programme implemented by the Sangeet Natak Akademi are as follows :

(i) Financial assistance for organising performances and festivals of folk dances and dramas ;

(ii) Organising workshops on the theme of adapting folk dances for the modern stage ;

(iii) Systematic survey and documentation of folk music, dance and drama and programmes for their preservation.

(iv) The Akademi also encourages training in folk and traditional dances and supports training courses in different regions of India.