

(c) and (d). No specific directions to the State Government of Bihar have been given in this regard. However, the need to provide employment to as many ex-Servicemen as possible and marking reservations in jobs in their favour (if not done already) has been impressed upon various State Governments, including the Government of Bihar from time to time.

(e) No, Sir.

Operation Black Board Programme in Rajasthan

6971. SHRIGULABCHAND KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by Union Government to the state of Rajasthan under the Operation Black board programme;

(b) whether most of the schools in Rajasthan are without buildings, black boards and tat-patties and most of such schools are in the Adivasi areas; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the condition of these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) The following amounts have been released to Rajasthan under the scheme of Operation Blackboard:-

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Amount (Rs. in lakhs)</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1987 - 88 | Rs. 1175.55 |
| 1988 - 89 | Rs. 1123.68 |
| 1989 - 90 | Rs. 1568.63 |

(b) and (c). According to information furnished by the State Govt., there are 27014 primary schools in the State, of which 2091 are buildingless and 5104 have only one room.

Almost all schools require essential teaching learning equipment including black-boards and tat-patties. Action is being taken to cover all primary schools under Operation Blackboard and provide them with at least two teachers, a all weather two room building and a set of essential teaching learning equipment including maps, charts, black-boards, tat-patties, a small library, games equipments etc. 17198 schools have been covered under the scheme in 1987-88 and proposals for covering the remainder are being taken up.

[English]

Progress on 'ARJUN' Tank

6972. SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press report appearing in Times of India dated 6 April, 1990 under the caption "MBT project runs into rough weather";

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the latest stage of development and progress on 'Arjun', the main battle tank;

(d) the date by which it is expected to commence production as per the original specifications; and

(e) the main reasons identified to be the causes of delay in the project's progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report published in the newspaper is based on dis-information and contains a number of gross inaccuracies. As the project is of sensitive nature, it will not be proper to discuss its details in order to contradict these inaccuracies. However, it needs