

(b) A senior officer of Government of Bihar and an officer from Transport Department, Government of Bihar have claimed to have deciphered the ancient Harappan script. The study is based on assigning certain phonetic value to the sacred religious symbols used by Santhal tribes in their rituals which according to two officers look into Harappan letters. However, the readings are not coherent in all cases. Therefore, it is difficult to accept the decipherment as final.

National Mission for Universalisation of Elementary Education

2490. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to launch a national mission for universalisation of elementary education by 2000 A.D. under the revised education policy ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ;

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard ; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the views of the State Governments and by when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) The revised Education Policy calls for launching of a National Mission for achievement of the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education before we enter the twenty first century. This revision in the policy has been done in consultation with the State Governments in the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE). It is also proposed

to discuss launching of such a Mission in the next meeting of the CABE scheduled for August 8, 1992.

Illiteracy in Bihar

2491. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Bihar has the maximum illiterate persons in comparison to other States ;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any special plan to eradicate illiteracy from the State ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(d) whether Government have also provided any special financial grants to the State for eradicating illiteracy ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) whether Government are satisfied with the actions taken by the Government of Bihar in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) :

(a) Even though the literacy rate in the State of Bihar is the lowest in the country, the State does not have the largest number of illiterates (covering all age groups) in comparison to other States.

(b) and (c) Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education and the National Literacy Mission which aims at imparting functional literacy of 80.00 million adult illiterates in the 15-35 group by 1995 forms an integral part of a larger programme

for eradication of illiteracy in all States/UTs including Bihar in the country. At present, 238 blocks have so far been covered in the State under 'Operation Blackboard' for substantial improvement in the quality of primary schools. 51,990 Non-Formal Education Centres have been sanctioned for the school drop-outs and Total Literacy Campaigns have been launched in 6 districts of the State covering about 29.50 lakhs illiterate persons in different age groups in a time-bound manner. Three Voluntary agencies and 240 Youth clubs have also taken up literacy campaigns in small and compact areas in six districts.

In addition the 'Bihar Education Project' (BEP) which is jointly sponsored by the Central and State Governments and the UNICEF aims at universalisation of elementary education, drastic reduction in adult illiteracy and equalisation of the educational opportunities with particular focus on women, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and poorer sections of the society.

(d) and (e) During 1991-92, grant amounting to Rs. 747.19 lakhs was released to the State Government of Bihar and other agencies working in the field of elementary and adult education as under :

(a) Grants Released for elementary education

(Rs. in lakhs)

i. State Government	191.99
ii. Voluntary Agencies	69.37

(b) Grants released for adult education

i. State Government	334.96
ii. Zila Sakshartha Samities and Voluntary Agencies.	150.87

(f) The State Government is expected to implement the programme as per the norms and guidelines issued by the Central Government. The programme is constantly reviewed from time to time and corrective measures are taken as considered necessary.

Expansion in Central Universities

2492. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of departments in each Central University;

(b) the plan and non-plan allocations made and actually provided to each Central University during the last three years and the current year ;

(c) the details of programmes for expansion in each University during 1993-94 and the Eighth plan ; and

(d) the amount asked for by each University during the current year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) :
(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Committee to study the grants given to various Universities

2493. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

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

(a) whether Government or University Grants Commission had