

method for doing the work so that it may be done in time. The work which is to be performed later on can be done earlier. Mr. Paswan, you know, the State Governments had stressed and got the policy passed that the Central Government has no right in this regard. It should come under the purview of State Governments. The State Governments will incur expenditure at their own will. It was decided accordingly. You know, when there was a famine in 1987-88 the Central Government had incurred the expenditure of Rs. 600 crore in a State. Now I have no spare funds. You should understand my compulsions. Either the State Governments of the Central Government should change the policy. Only then it can be resolved. I have not delayed even for a single minute in granting funds whatever were available with me.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Central Government that when there is severe drought situation in Bihar and 40-50 people have died due to starvation, then is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to protect the people of Bihar from starvation? What action has been taken in this regard by the Central Government?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : As I have already told that we have done our level best and 30,000 tonnes additional quantity of wheat has been released for this purpose. The remaining states have also their own problems. I have to deal with them at per. I am unable to do anything more than this.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received the reply of my question. I have asked whether the Government of India is accountable or not for starvation death of 40-50 people in Bihar (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : We have provided assistance to the maximum pos-

sible extent. We have done whatever was possible. Rest will be done by the State Governments.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Old age Homes

*46. **SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:**
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age homes constructed in Delhi so far;

(b) the number of old persons kept in these homes and the facilities being provided to them;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct more old age homes in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) One.

(b) At present there are 30 inmates in this Home. They are provided free lodging/boarding, clothing etc. In addition, counselling, medical care and recreational services are also provided.

(c) and (d). Another Old age Home is under construction in Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.