

rals, large areas in Maharashtra, the Nasik-Jagdapur National Highway, Kaleshwar Temple and Wali Hyder Dargah. It has been suggested in these representations that the height of the dam may be reduced and the dam site may be shifted downstream of the present site to minimise the submergence.

(e) No representation in this regard has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

### Supply of Wheat

832. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether inspite of good rains the acute shortage of wheat is at present prevailing in many parts of the country and only *atta* is being supplied in the fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): Keeping in view the stock position of wheat and to bring down the pressure on wheat it was suggested to the State Governments that *atta* might be issued through fair price shops in lieu of wheat. This was expected to bring down the consumption of wheat as *atta* is difficult to store over a long period. Some of the State Governments have favoured the suggestion while others have not.

### Letter Addressed by Chief Minister of West Bengal Regarding Utilization of Foodgrains

833. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:  
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Minister of West Bengal has sent a letter to the President of India as well as Union Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction that the matter in regard to utilisation of foodgrains in West Bengal under the food for

work programme be referred to the Supreme Court of India under article 143 of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the action so far taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of West Bengal addressed a letter to the President dated 3rd December, 1980 and to the Union Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction dated 31st October, 1980. In the letter written to the President of India a request was made for a reference to the Supreme Court of India under Article 143 of the Constitution. But no such request was made in the letter addressed to Minister for Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction. The Government has examined the whole position and found that at no time the utilisation certificates submitted by the West Bengal Government aggregated to more than 50 per cent of total foodgrains released to the West Bengal Government under the Food-for-Work/National Rural Employment Programme, during the current year. The matter which related purely to arithmetical calculations was carefully considered in consultation with the Ministry of Law and the view taken was that the case did not involve any question of public importance and, therefore, did not deserve the exercise of powers vested in the President under Article 143 of the Constitution for making a reference to the Supreme Court.

### Reservation of Job Quota for Disabled Persons

834. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of Social Welfare Ministers held, recently in the capital has suggested for re-