

**SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
SHASTRI:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the anachronistic practice of carrying of night-soil on head is still woefully prevalent throughout the length and breadth of the country;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the States during the last three years, year-wise, for the purchase of Wheel-barrows for bringing this practice to a vanishing point;

(c) whether the financial assistance given by the Central Government to the States for the above purpose was adequate;

(d) whether the said assistance was utilised exclusively for the purpose for which it was given and, if not, the reasons therefor and the amount of the unutilised assistance, State-wise; and

(e) whether Government propose to give increased assistance for this purpose and, if so, the amount thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): (a) The practice is still prevalent in many parts of the country.

(b) During the last three years, the following financial assistance has been given by the Central Government to the States for the composite-scheme of improvement of working and living conditions of sweepers and scavengers etc.

(Rs. in lakhs)

1967-68	10.05
1968-69	20.00
1969-70	51.25

(c) The financial assistance givenⁿ by the Central Government to the State^s for the purpose was based on the financial resources available and the approved budget allocations.

(d) In accordance with the terms and conditions of the grants given to the State Governments, money can be utilised by them only for the purpose for which it is given. Many of the State Governments were able to utilise the assistance fully while the others were not able to do so. A statement showing State-wise allocations, expenditure and percentage utilisation during the Third Plan period is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3722/70].

(e) Against an allocation of Rs. 51.25 lakhs for the year 1969-70, an increased allocation of Rs.57.20 lakhs has been made for the year 1970-71 for the improvement of working and living conditions of sweepers and scavengers etc.

**Amount spent on Petition filed against
Shri V. V. Giri's Election as
President**

211. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state that details of expenditure incurred by Government on the petition against Shri V. V. Giri's election as President ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Requirement of Hydro-sulphite of Soda
During Fourth Plan**

212. SHRI R. K. BIRLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of hydro-sulphite

of soda during the Fourth Plan ;

wise ?

(b) the present production and the names of the manufacturers who are producing hydrosulphite of soda and the quantity produced by each of them annually;

(c) whether it is a fact that this item is still allowed to be imported; and

(d) if so, its quantity with value imported during the last two years, year-

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) The present requirement of hydrosulphite of soda is estimated all about 9,000/10,000 tonnes per year and this figure is likely to increase to about 12,000 tonnes. per year by 1973-74.

(b) At present, there are three manufacturers of this chemical in the country and their details of production are as follows:—

Name of the firm	Annual installed capacity as on 1.7.70 (tonnes)	Actual production in tonnes	
		1969	Jan-May 1970
1. J. K. Chemicals Ltd., Bombay	3,168	3,252	1,487
2. Travancore Cochin Chemicals Ltd., Kerala	3,000	1,408	466
3. Indian Electro-Chemicals Ltd., Ahmedabad	1,560	944	521
	7,728	5,604	2,474

(c) The shortfall between the present requirement and the indigenous production of 5,600 tonnes per annum is being met by imports.

(d) The import figures of Sodium Hydrosulphite during the last two years are as follows :—

Year	Quantity in tonnes	C. I. F. import value (RS. in lakhs)
1968-69	527	15.3
1969-70	2,481	92.0

Export of Pig Iron to Japan

213. SHRI SITARAM KEŚRI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan had refused to buy pig iron from India;

(b) if so, the reasons for Japan's refusal;

(c) whether Japan is now willing to buy pig iron; and

(d) whether negotiations have been going on in this direction ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The usual pig iron exporting agencies are in constant touch with Japanese market conditions.