

achieve the target we have to revamp and modernise the plants and once we have done that, it would be far cheaper to produce steel. It is one way to reckon the cost for a ton of production. It will be far cheaper if we augment the capacity of the existing plants than to put up new plants.

**SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI:** Modernisation is different.

**SHRI N.K.P. SALVE:** Sir, in my reply I said both. My second part of the reply was that expansion or augmentation of the capacity of the existing plants is much cheaper and it is one way to reduce the cost of steel per tonne.

#### Practice of Carrying Night Soil as Head Load

\*350. **SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) measures taken by Government so far to end the inhuman practice of carrying night soil as head load by the scavengers which is directly related to the practice of untouchability;

(b) special allocations, if any, made by the Government during the Fifth and Sixth Plan periods;

(c) the actual amount spent for the benefit and uplift of these people and the results achieved; and

(d) measures taken by the Government to implement the recommendations/suggestions of Commissions/Committees set up for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR**): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) The long-term solution to this problem lies in the conversion of all dry latrines into sanitary ones as part of the sanitation programme under the State Sector.

However, the Ministry of Home Affairs have been providing matching assistance

to the State Governments out of a limited allocation under the "Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955". The Scheme has components namely (i) machinery for implementation of PCR Act and (ii) liberation of scavengers. Under the second component of this Centrally sponsored scheme, matching grants are given to the State Governments for conversion of dry latrines into water borne latrines in some selected towns.

(b) The total allocation for both the components of the said scheme during the VI Five Year Plan is Rs. 6 crores.

(c) The following amounts were released to the State Governments for the conversion of dry latrines into water borne latrines during 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 (upto 21-3-1983):—

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1980-81	63.00
1981-82	131.12
1982-83	171.35

In Bihar the eight towns, namely: Bihar-Sharif, Purnea, Chaibasa, Madhubani, Ranchi, Saharsa, Deoghar and Daltonganj have been made scavenging-free. The work in some other towns in Bihar and other States is in progress.

(d) The Government of India has not set up any Commission/Committee during the recent years.

**श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह :** मान्यवर, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। हिन्दुस्तान की आज़ादी के 35 साल के बाद भी 2,968 स्माल टाउन्स के अन्दर 8 लाख सफाई कर्मचारी हैं, जिनमें 3 लाख 20 हजार लोग गांधी जी के देश में मला उठाते हैं। इस से लज्जा की ओर क्या बात हो सकती है? माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में बिहार के आठ-नौ कस्बों का जिक्र किया है।

1982-83 में 171.35 लाख की राशि मंजूर की गई है। सरकार एशियाड में एक हजार करोड़ रुपए खर्च कर सकती है, लेकिन सफाई कर्मचारियों के उद्धार के लिए यह कितने लज्जा की बात है कि आज भी वे सिर पर मैला उठाते हैं। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इससे कितने स्माल टाउन इन्फैक्टिड हैं? आपकी शार्ट या लॉग टर्म प्लानिंग क्या है और क्या आपने वर्ल्ड-बैंक एड से इसको जोड़ रखा है? इसके अलावा आपने और क्या कुछ किया है?

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:**  
My friend has said that about one thousand crores of rupees have been spent on Asiad. It is absolutely wrong figure that he has given. It is not a fact at all. (*Interruptions*)

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):** This is a very rediculous and michievous statement.

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:**  
For the other part which he was telling I totally agree with my friend. It is obnoxious and ugly practice of carrying night-soil on the heads. It must go from this country. Various schemes have been implemented for this purpose. But you know that our country is a big country. There are a number of towns, both big and small towns, and there are semi-urban areas in our country. It is a fact that in many urban areas, in our country, still human wastes are carried manually. It is a fact. Now, since the Second, Third and upto the Fourth Five Year Plans, after a Committee went into this problem, they have given certain suggestions. So, we have tried many suggestions as recommended as to how to tackle this problem and how to check this practice. But it has not proved useful. That is why we are trying other methods. The Home Ministry has allotted an amount of Rs. 6 crores for the Sixth Plan for implementation of PCR Act.

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:**  
The only way out is to convert the existing dry latrines in our country into low cost water-borne latrines. We are approaching like this to face this problem. The Ministry concerned is the Ministry of Works and Housing, and we are in constant touch with each other and we have drawn up certain schemes to convert dry latrines into low cost water-borne latrines throughout the country in a phased manner. It cannot be done in a single year, or a few years. It must be done in a phased manner. We are trying our best to convert the dry latrines into water-borne latrines, septic type etc. Of course, it will take a little more time. But definitely, it is the ambition of this Government that this ugly process should come to an end.

**श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह :** यह मानवता का प्रश्न है। यह जो आपने प्लानिंग की है, यह कितनी अवधि की है? क्या आपने इसके लिए कोई अवधि दस वर्ष की, बीस वर्ष की या सौ वर्ष की निर्धारित की है या नहीं? आपकी यह प्लानिंग कब तक समाप्त हो जाएगी?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:** We are conscious of this fact, and we have discussed it many times and there is no doubt that this is a disgrace and should be eradicated as early as possible. But I am sure the whole House will appreciate that it is not possible to give a specific date.

**श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह :** मान्यवर, पांचवीं लोक सभा की एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी की 69वीं रिपोर्ट में इस प्रश्न पर कुछ रिकमण्डेशंस की गयी थीं। उनमें व्हील बेरोज प्रोवाइड करने की बात कही गयी थी। जो मैला ले जाने वाली गाड़ियां हैं, जिन्हें बेरोज कहते हैं, वह आपने राज्य सरकारों को कितनी प्रोवाइड की हैं और राज्य सरकारों से क्या आपने इस के बारे में कोई जानकारी प्राप्त की है?

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:** I have already replied this. We have tried all these suggestions that came to us, and about which the Committee went into, but this has not proved a success and that is why we are trying other method . . . . (Interruptions).

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** As the hon. Prime Minister said, this is a crime against humanity. It is most shocking and atrocious practice and those who indulge in this comprise the lowest rung of the sarvahara. The long term solution to this problem is not just by converting the dry latrines into sanitary ones, but also in directing our attention towards those who indulge in this because of their socio-economic plight. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, whether he would consider my suggestion of issuing a directive to pay special attention to this, under one of the relevant provisions of the 20-Point programme, so that those who perforce have to perform this inhuman task are given special priority in the programme of economic upliftment. These people are the weakest of the weak.

**MR. SPEAKER:** This question does not arise 1 out of this; it is a suggestion.

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** I would like to say that the supply of wheel barrows has not proved completely useless. In many towns, wheel barrows have been supplied and I have myself supplied these in 1960 when I was Chairman of the Ujjain Municipal Committee and it proved very successful and it was welcome. It will definitely take time to convert these dry latrines into water type latrines and flush type latrines. But now State Governments have given different types of latrines and these are being constructed in lakhs. Apart from that under the UNDP assisted projects feasibility studies are being prepared for more than 100 towns. Similarly, the World Bank has also agreed to consider similar project forms in Tamil Nadu. I fully agree that this is an obnoxious practice and we should do all possible things to remove this practice. As has been suggested by the Hon. Members, even a

greater stress should be given on this type of programme under the 20-Point Programme.

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** अभी सिन्धिया साहब ने कहा कि यह आर्थिक प्रोग्राम है लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि इसमें आर्थिक प्रोग्राम का कोई मतलब नहीं है। यह देश के ऊपर, आपके ऊपर और हमारे ऊपर भी कलंक है क्योंकि अभी तक आपने इसको समाप्त नहीं किया है और न ही यह खत्म हो सका है। कितनी जल्दी इस माथे के कलंक के टीके को धोया जा सकता है, क्योंकि कोई और दूसरा रास्ता नहीं है ?

**श्री मोहम्मद असरार अहमद :** अपनी तीन साल की गवर्नमेंट में इन्होंने क्या किया है। . . . (व्यवधान)

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** आप क्यों बीच में चिल्लाते हैं ? आप तो यूथ कांग्रेस के लगते हैं। . . . (व्यवधान)

मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि भारत सरकार ने हाल के वर्षों में कोई आयोग या समिति गठित नहीं की है। इसका मतलब है, पहले कोई समिति गठित की गई थी। वह कौन सी समिति थी और उसकी सिफारिशों को क्यों नहीं कार्यान्वित किया गया ? प्रधान मंत्री जी और गृह मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार आज इस सदन को आश्वासन देगी कि बाइ आर्डर सिर पर मैला ढोने का जो सिस्टम है, वह समाप्त हो जाये। इस सत्र में आप एक विधेयक लाइए कि जहां कहीं भी सिर पर मैला ढोया जायेगा वह एन्टी कांस्टीट्यूशन और एन्टी ह्यूमनिटी है और इसको कोई भी मानव-जाति बर्दाश्त नहीं करेगी। आप कह देंगे कि मैं इससे सहमत नहीं हूं यह बड़े शर्म की बात है तो क्या सरकार इसके लिए जवाबदेह होगी ?

**श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी :** आल्टरनेटिव नहीं है तो क्या होगा ?

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** ब्राह्मण क्यों नहीं मैला ढोता है ?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:** I don't know what they are getting excited about, Sir. All I said is that you cannot ban an activity unless you are able to provide an alternative employment for them. These people will be out of jobs. That is the problem. I have no objection to doing it myself and I might tell him that in Gandhiji's Ashram and other places I have cleaned latrines.

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** सिर्फ वे लोग ही क्यों मैला ढोते हैं ?

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:** Sir, his specific question was about the Committee which had gone into the problem. He wanted to know about that Committee. The Committee was under the Chairmanship of late Prof. N. R. Malkhani, and it was known as the Scavenging Conditions Inquiry Committee. It was set up in 1957 and he submitted his Report in 1960. It was basically, in fact, implied only for a programme for preventing the practice of carrying night soil. That is why it suggested wheel barrows and other things. As I have already said it has not proved somewhat successful. It has not proved a wholesale success. That is why we are now trying other schemes to convert the dry latrines into low cost water seal latrines or low cost sanitary latrines. So, these are the schemes. The Housing Ministry also has certain other schemes.

**SHRI ANANTHA RAMULU MALLU:** Sir, I am happy the Hon. Prime Minister was kind to take part in this particular subject. I would like to know from hon. Minister for Home, whether the Government of India is considering any proposal to show some other profession to these particular communities? If so, what are the other alternatives that you have presented so far and what are the alternative methods that have been taken up by the Government? So, it is not only the question of our intention on this particular subject, but the fact is that it is also a question which is engaging our attention for the last several years to find out what is the alternative.

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:** I may inform the Hon. Member that in certain towns in the State like Bihar the practice of carrying night soil has been abolished. They have also written to us that they have also provided some alternative jobs to these people who become jobless.

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** बिहार में कहीं भी और किसी भी जिले में समाप्त नहीं हुआ है ।

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:** The towns are Biharsharif, Purnia, Chaibasa, Madhubani, Ranchi, Saharsa; Deogarh and Daltanganj.

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** अभी जो इन्होंने बिहार शरीफ और पूर्णिया आदि के बारे में कहा है, यह बिल्कुल गलत है । मैं इसको चैलेंज करता हूँ । यह गलत रिपोर्ट है ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** पता करवा लीजिये ।

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** गलत रिपोर्ट है ।

Why is he misleading the House?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** This is the report that we have received from the Bihar Government. If the hon. member so desire, we will check it up again.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Is there any government in Bihar?

**श्री होरालाल शरमा परमार :** मला उठाने वाले लोगों को रिजर्वेशन कोटा में गिना जाता है । कोई और जाति के लोग मेला उठाने का काम नहीं करते हैं । तो शेड्यूलड कास्ट के रिजर्वेशन कोटा में से मैला उठाने वालों को निकालेंगे क्या ?

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:** We will consider it.