

the PAC, and in fact, we are drafting our report, and the report will be available before the end of the session. I would, therefore, suggest that this question may not be taken up now.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सहमत हूँ...

Mr. Speaker: There can be no discussion on it now.

Next question.

श्री मधु लिमये : मेरी विनती सुनिये । 3 अगस्त को इस को रखा जाय वरना यह खत्म हो रहा है ।

Mr. Speaker: No. Let me see.

श्री मधु लिमये : आप मेरी बात सुनिये । मैं अभी नहीं पूछ रहा हूँ बल्कि मैं कह रहा हूँ कि 3 अगस्त को इस को रखा जाय पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी की रपट आने के बाद । वरना यह तो खत्म हो जायेगा ।

Mr. Speaker: I am not promising anything now.

Conditions of Service of Scavengers

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*1112. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Shri George Fernandes:

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:

Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered any assistance to the States and Municipalities and other local authorities who agree to improve the pay-scales of scavengers;

(b) whether Government have advised the State Government to discontinue the practice of carrying of the night soil in baskets and replace it by handcarts, bullock carts or power-driven vehicles; and

(c) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

The Minister of State in the Department of Social Welfare (Shrimati Phulrenu Guha): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The response has been generally satisfactory.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे प्रश्न के जवाब में कहा है कि राज्यों के द्वारा जो प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त की गई है वह संतोषजनक है । क्या मंत्री महोदय मन्ना पटल पर विवरण रखेंगे या जबानी बतलायेंगे कि विभिन्न राज्यों ने उस के बारे में क्या कार्यवाही करने का अभिवचन आप को दिया है ?

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha: If the hon. Member wants, I can give the information State-wise.

Andhra Pradesh: The expenditure during the Third Plan period exceeded even the allocation, thus indicating that the schemes have made a good progress in the State.

Assam: The entire Third Plan provision of Rs. 1 lakh for the State for the scheme of eradication of the practice of carrying night soil as headloads has been utilised.

Bihar: The entire Third Plan provision of Rs. 11.08 lakhs was expected to be utilised on the supply of 1240 wheel-barrows.

Gujarat: They have supplied 6513 wheel-barrows.

Kerala: The State Government have reported that the practice of carrying night soil as headloads has been abandoned.

Madhya Pradesh: In some of the municipalities they have already eliminated the practice of carrying night soil as headloads, of course, not in all

the municipalities. During the Third Plan period, the scheme of introduction of wheel-barrows was implemented by 93 municipalities.

Madras: 11,619 wheel-barrows were supplied.

Maharashtra: The State Government have reported that the saturation point has very nearly been reached in respect of this scheme. That means that they do not want any more wheel-barrows.

Mysore: During the Third Plan period, 3071 wheel-barrows and 2389 hand-carts were supplied.

Orissa: We do not have the exact number of wheel-barrows supplied in Orissa, but it is expected that improvement of housing conditions and the transportation of night soil in wheel-barrows has been introduced in a number of municipalities. In some States, the progress is slow. Punjab is one. In Rajasthan and UP, the State Governments have also reported that under the existing bye-laws of the Municipal Boards the carrying of night soil in any manner other than in closed buckets has been prohibited. In West Bengal, during the Third Plan the scheme of eradication of the practice of carrying night soil as headloads was implemented in 11 municipalities of the State...

Shri Dattatraya Kunte: May I suggest that the statement be laid on the Table? It may be useful to Members if that were done.

Mr. Speaker: I wish it had been laid on the Table instead of explaining the position orally State by State in which case the whole of India would have to be covered, taking considerable time.

श्री मधु लिमये : मेहतरों का बेतनमान ऊंचा उठाने के लिए और यह माथे पर मूला डोने की जो एक खराब प्रथा है उस को खत्म करने के लिए कोई समय निश्चित

किया गया है कि एक साल के अन्दर, दो साल अन्दर केन्द्र शासित इलाकों में और राज्यों में यह प्रथा खत्म की जायेगी और मेहतरों के बेतनमान में सुधार किया जायेगा ?

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha: No, Sir. Deadline has not been given. But Government are trying to introduce replacement of the head-load system by allocating money under the Second and Third Plans, and also in 1966-67.

In this connection, I would like to say that there are some customary rights in certain States. It is not so easy to give a deadline because Members may be knowing that in States like Punjab, UP, Rajasthan and some parts of Gujarat and also Madhya Pradesh, the customary rights are there, and scavengers themselves do not want a change because they take the customary rights as their property...

Mr. Speaker: They want to carry it on their head and treat it as a right?

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या बात यह कर रहे हैं? कस्टमरी राइट्स, क्या कोई कहेंगा कि अप्स्यूयता रखने का भी हम को अधिकार है? इस देश में प्रजातन्त्री सविधान है।

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha: Customary right; they treat it as their property right.

Mr. Speaker: Is it suggested that they want to carry it only on their head as a matter of customary right?

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha: No....

श्री शिवचरण लाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी के कथन पर मेरा ध्यान से एक व्यवस्था का सवाल है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है

श्री शिवचरण लाल : मैं मंत्री महोदय से नहीं ध्यान से व्यवस्था चाहता हूँ।

Mr. Speaker: Will he kindly sit down?

श्री शिवचरण लाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सवाल से भेरा सम्बन्ध है। मैं मेहतरों का प्रतिनिधित्व करता हूँ।

Mr. Speaker: I will allow him.

माननीय सदस्य सवाल पूछ सकते हैं।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जवाब ही नहीं आ रहा है। अब इस तरीके का उत्तर आना कि यह कोई बुनियादी अधिकार है क्या यह कोई उत्तर है?

Mr. Speaker: I agree. It is really unfortunate that it is a customary right to carry night soil on the head. He can ask the question again.

श्री मधु लिमये : श्री प्रशोक मेहता बंटे हैं तो मैं उन से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या एक, दो साल के अन्दर राज्य सरकारों के सहयोग से इस को वह नष्ट करने के लिए तैयार हैं?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): The Member has asked two questions. The first was, what is being done to improve the wages that are being given to these people. Now, there we are not in a position to assist them at all. What we have said is that the Minimum Wages Act should be applied to these people. Various State Governments have set up some committees to look into this. On the question of wages, the Department of Social Welfare is not in a position to provide any assistance because it is not part of its responsibility.

The other question was: how quickly the changeover will be brought about? Financial assistance and every other inducement is being offered to bring about this changeover. But there is one difficulty. This year, for instance, the allocation to the Department of Social Welfare has been

considerably reduced because of the general stringent budgetary position. Last year we had provided Rs. 33 lakhs and odd thousands for this; this year we have been able to have only Rs. 10 lakhs. It becomes very difficult for me to say how long this particular thing will take, because there are so many competing schemes of social welfare and the limited resources have to be spread over them. We would like to push this forward as fast as we can subject to the availability of resources.

Mr. Speaker: Can you also throw some light on this so-called customary right of carrying it on their head only.

Shri Asoka Mehta: To the best of my knowledge certain people have the customary right, whether they carry it on their own head is their business, but they alone are entitled to carry the nightsoil.

Mr. Speaker: Nobody objects to that.

Shri Asoka Mehta: It has been suggested by these people that this customary right can be extinguished only if necessary compensation is given to them. This is one of the problems which has been brought up time and again, and it is a matter which deserves very careful study.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The purpose of the question was to know to what extent the status of the scavengers has been raised both socially and economically. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government of India made a promise to give some subsidy to the States for constructing houses for the scavengers, whether this has been done or not, and whether it is a fact that all these houses, whether they are being constructed, are being constructed nearer to the place of duty, i.e. nearer the lavatories. This is exactly what has been done in Kanpur, Allahabad and Banaras. I would like to know whe-

ther his attention has been drawn to this, and what amount has been given.

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha: It depends on the municipalities, it is not dependent on the Central Government.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Whether the Central Government has paid any financial assistance to the State Governments for subsidising the construction of these houses, and if so what amount?

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha: They have given in the past, but not at the moment.

श्री जार्ज फर्नेडीस : इस काम में अब तक एक ही जाति के लोग रहे हैं। अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि वे इसको अपना कस्टमरी राइट समझते हैं। इसको हटा कर और किस्म के लोग भी इस काम में भरती हों, इसके लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्य सरकारों के साथ मिल कर कोई ऐसी योजना बनाने के लिए क्या तैयार है ताकि मेहतरों की तनख्वाह का और उनके मकानों का जो मसला है वह हल हो और समाज के दूसरे लोगों को भी इस काम में घाने का प्रोत्साहन मिले ?

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha: It is a suggestion for action.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : क्या मंत्री महोदय ने किसी राज्य सरकार अथवा नगरपालिका को संदेशा भेजा है कि मेहतरों की अवस्था ऐसे भी सुधारनी चाहिये ताकि जाति प्रथा का नाश हो और इसके लिए तनख्वाहें बाई सौ तीन सौ रुपये तक बढ़ाई जायें ? अगर ऐसा सुझाव किसी राज्य अथवा नगर पालिका को भेजा है तो उनका क्या जवाब मिला है और उनको कितनी मदद देने के लिये ये तैयार हैं ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : पहले भी मैंने बताया है कि जहां तक तनख्वाह का सवाल है,

डिपार्टमेंट आफ सोशल वेलफेयर का उससे रिश्ता नहीं है। यह हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री का सवाल है। लोक सैल्फ गवर्नमेंट उनके मातहत है। कहां तक इस मामले में वह मदद कर पाएगी इसका जवाब मैं नहीं दे सकता हूं।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : तनख्वाहों की बात तो मैंने एक उदाहरण के तौर पर कह दी है। मेरा मुख्य सवाल तो यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय ने किसी राज्य अथवा नगरपालिका को यह संदेशा भेजा है कि मेहतरों की अवस्था सुधारने का एक उद्देश्य जाति प्रथा का नाश भी होना चाहिये। यह तो इनकी मातहतों में आता है। इसका उत्तर तो वह दे सकते हैं, अगर तनख्वाहों की बात का जवाब नहीं दे सकते हैं तो और अगर ऐसा संदेशा भेजा है तो क्या जवाब मिला है ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : संदेशा कोई राज्य सरकारों को जाता है तो किसी स्कीम के बारे में जाता है या उसी बातों के बारे जाता है कि क्या क्या मदद हम कर सकते हैं। जहां तक इसका सम्बन्ध है मैं नहीं मानता हूं कि हमारी तरफ से कुछ करने की जरूरत है।

Shri Deorao Patil: Has the government accepted the recommendation of the State governments and of the Lokur committees regarding the removal of area restriction and if so when will the Bill be introduced? Because at present the position is that each caste or tribe is considered a scheduled caste or tribe in one part of a state and not in another area causing anomalies and hardship. Therefore, I want to know whether a Bill will be introduced to remove the present area restrictions.

Shri Asoka Mehta: Yes, Sir.

श्री शिवचरण लाल : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि वे सिर पर मैला डोना अपना अधिकार समझते हैं। यह बिल्कुल

झूठ बात है। गरीबी की मजदूरी के कारण ही बे सिर पर मैला ढोते हैं और उनको यह काम करना पड़ता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्यों से यह सिफारिश की है कि नगरपालिकाओं, महापालिकाओं और टाउन एरिया के क्षेत्रों के भ्रन्तर्मत जो मेहतर सिर पर कड़ा और मैला ढो कर ले जाते हैं उनकी तनख्वाहें बढ़ाई जाएँ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनकी तनख्वाहें बढ़ी हैं?

देहातों में गरीब मेहतरों को पानी के लिए दूसरों के घासरे सारा सारा दिन पड़े रहना पड़ता है। उनको कुओं से पानी नहीं लेने दिया जाता है। न ही उनके रहने के लिए मकान हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी स्थिति में सुधार लाने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है?

Shrimati Phulrena Guha: I have already stated that in certain parts the scavengers feel that it is their customary right because they feel that it is a property right. . . (Interruptions.) In the census of India 1961, they have published the customary rights, living and working conditions of the scavengers in November 1966. It has been shown in that report that the customary right of the scavengers is a sort of property right which most of the scavengers have inherited like any other property. Scavengers feel attached to this property. (Interruptions.)

Mr. Speaker: Will you kindly read the second part?—the practice of carrying nightsoil in baskets to be replaced by hand carts. The custom may be there. The same man who is carrying it in the head can be asked to carry it in a cart. It does not take away the customary rights.

Shri Asoka Mehta: What my colleague has pointed out is that the

right to carry nightsoil is the customary right but how to carry it is not a customary right. . .

श्री राम सेवक यादव : राइट टू करी,
राइट टू

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have asked the question and he is answering. This type of interruption is not proper.

Shri Asoka Mehta: Therefore, as was pointed out by my colleague it is argued that these people have a customary right. Therefore, if that right has to be extinguished. . . (Interruptions.) The House must have patience to hear me.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : आपका अधिकार है गुलाम रहने का ?

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: This will go out in the foreign press and the whole country will be looked down upon.

Shri Asoka Mehta: You have asked me a question. If you want I will give my reply. If the hon. Members want to reply to your question, I have no objection. At no stage are we suggesting that to carry the load on their head is the customary right. This is a matter which is to be tackled and it is being tackled. As I pointed out some of the things had been done. There are a number of difficulties and if the House is interested, I shall detail here those difficulties. That is one part of the question. The question of customary right was brought in only to say that the right to remove nightsoil in whatever manner it is done is considered by some people to be a customary right; and this is a matter which I believe one of the committees has looked into and the report of that committee is before the State Governments and before the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

श्री शिव चरण लाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने सवाल हिन्दी में पूछा है और उसका उत्तर किसी दूसरी भाषा में दिया गया है। मैं उसको समझ नहीं हूँ।

Accommodation for Central Government Employees

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- *1113. Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri A. K. Kisku:
 Shri S. N. Maiti:
 Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Meetha Lal:
 Shri Liladhar Kotoki:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Madhu Limaye:
 Shri M. L. Sondhi:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government employees who have not been allotted Government accommodation even after putting in more than 10 years continuous service;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to provide them with accommodation;

(d) the average waiting period for the employees for getting entitlement for the normal accommodation; and

(e) whether allotment on the basis of out-of-turn allotment are going to be re-opened again?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Iqbal Singh): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1021 (i)/87].

(b) Due to shortage of residential accommodation in the general pool, it has not been possible to provide accommodation to a large number of Government employees.

(c) Due to financial stringency, it is not possible to undertake the construction of new residential units on a

large scale. However, construction work on 3612 quarters is in progress and subject to the availability of funds, it is proposed to undertake the construction of another 3324 residential units during the year 1967-68.

The waiting period for getting entitled accommodation from the general pool varies from type to type and from city to city. A statement showing the dates of priority for different types of residences at various stations as on 30th June, 1967 is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1021 (ii)/87].

(e) Out-of-turn allotments are covered under S.R. 317-B-9 of the Allotment Rules and are made in very deserving cases only.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बताया है कि जिन सरकारी कर्मचारियों को दस साल से अधिक सविस करने के बाद भी दिल्ली में मकान उपलब्ध नहीं किया गया है, उन की संख्या 6919 है। दिल्ली में सरकारी कर्मचारियों की संख्या 55,000 के करीब है, जब कि मंत्री महोदय के अनुसार केवल 3612 क्वार्टर बनाए जा रहे हैं। मैं यह जनना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने इन 55,000 कर्मचारियों को जल्दी से जल्दी मकान उपलब्ध करने के लिए क्या योजना बनाई है और वेटिंग लिस्ट के अनुसार कौन सी प्रायर्टी डेट के सरकारी कर्मचारियों को मकान दिये जा चुके हैं।

श्री इकबाल सिंह : दस साल से ज्यादा सविस करने पर भी जिन गवर्नमेंट एम्प्लोईड को अभी तक मकान नहीं मिले हैं उन के बारे में एक स्टेटमेंट दिया गया है। माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है कि और कितने कर्मचारियों को मकान दिये जाने की योजना है। जैसा कि जवाब में बताया गया है, दिल्ली में और दिल्ली से बाहर लगभग 3600 नये मकान बन रहे हैं। जहाँ तक इस सवाल का तात्त्विक है कि दिल्ली में कितने सरकारी कर्मचारियों