

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : Sir, the facts of the case are that some pumps etc. had to be electrically driven and pump-sets and their accessories for the pumping station and workshop at Wazirabad had to be obtained and tenders were received by the Corporation. The rates were quoted by one company, i.e. Jyoti Pumps Private (Private) Ltd., Baroda, and they tendered for Rs. 10,20,680. Messrs. Hindustan Industrial Corporation here tendered for Rs. 10,70,098. Thus their tender was very much higher. But later on they offered to reduce it by Rs. 90,000 so that that would become lower. This was not accepted and whichever was originally the lower tender i.e. that of Jyoti Pumps (Private) Ltd., Baroda, was accepted. The matter was investigated because certain complaints were received and the intelligence officers asked the Municipal Corporation if they could see the files and they saw files with the permission of the Corporation. There was no question of any raid. Nothing irregular was found and the enquiry was closed.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : May I ask the hon. Minister one thing? There may or may not be any irregularity, but did this investigation also look into the fact that a great deal of hardship had been caused to the town? The Chairman had said that pressures were used on him to accept a particular tender and there was considerable delay in accepting the tender. May I ask when the tenders were received, when the order was placed and what was the reason for the delay?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : I am afraid I do not have all the information about dates and so on. I do agree that there was delay which caused difficulties in water supply.

PRACTICE OF CARRYING NIGHTSOIL ON THE HEAD

***70. SHRI YELLA REDDY :** Will the Minister of PLANNING AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to eradicate the practice of

carrying nightsoil on head by scavengers in certain municipalities and local bodies' areas in the country;

(b) how far these steps helped in eradicating this practice;

(c) what was the total amount allotted for this purpose in the Third Five Year Plan; and

(d) how much of this amount has been spent during the Third Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) The Government of India have been giving grant-in-aid to the States for the purchase of hand carts/wheel barrows, implements and protective devices to be supplied to scavengers, for the purpose of eliminating the practice of carrying night-soil as head-loads.

(b) The scheme has made significant progress in most of the States although it has not been possible to eradicate this practice completely so far.

(c) Rs. 144.19 lakhs.

(d) Rs. 130.78 lakhs (anticipated) Expenditure.

SHRI YELLA REDDY : This is still in practice. Why is so much time taken for eradication of this?

SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR : It is not easy to make the people take to a new device. And the other difficulty is, there is the jagirdari system among the scavengers for which we have already appointed a Committee. The Committee had to submit its report within a year and the report is already being drafted.

***71. [The questioner (Shri P. K. Kumaran) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 375-376 infra.]**