

# Ravi Road markets

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be pumped out by Wasa. Reconstruction of the roads with concrete had solved the problem of frequent deterioration but broken manholes and big holes in the slabs covering the underground drain built by Wasa were a permanent nuisance. People

fell in the holes and wheels of motor-vehicles were stuck in the same during the rush hours. They said that the sanitation arrangements in the two markets were also unsatisfactory. The market committee claimed to have deployed 40 sanitary workers in the two markets but the number seen at work was much lower.

Moreover, they turned up for work in the afternoon.

They said that monopoly of a single bank over banking services in the two markets and the adjoining General Truck Stand had made its staff rude. The major problem created by the bank staff for hundreds of wholesalers depositing millions of

rupees in the branch daily was its refusal to accept the old and creased currency notes. The bank officials told the depositors to iron out creases in the notes before bringing the same for depositing with their accounts. The old notes were not accepted at all. The bank staff had become rude after the branch of its competitor bank was closed down after four or five armed robberies.

They said that the traffic problem in the markets could be eased by opening the service road running along the Ravi Link Road for traffic. The road had been encroached upon completely and workshops and hotels were being run on the same. Fruit and vegetable business also spilled over it for hours every morning.

They said that the wholesalers were also worried about tenfold increase in property tax under the new system of tax computation.

Lahore Committee chairman Mian Talat Ahmad said that steps were being taken to solve the sanitation and sewerage problems. The market committee had already awarded a contract for redesigning the main drain running along the two markets and the sewerage system to prevent spill over of the sewage water during the rains.



COWS rummage food from garbage outside the fruit and vegetable markets. —Dawn