

(b) which categories of journalists were entitled to such railway concessions; and

(c) what were the reasons for withdrawal and by when they are likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Rail Travel Coupon books at 15 per cent concession in First Class and 50 per cent concession in Second Class were being issued to Press Correspondents accredited to the Headquarters of Central Government, State Government, Union Territories and District Headquarters of State Governments in connection with their *bonafide* press work. This concession was withdrawn with effect from 1-11-1981 based on the recommendations of Rail Tariff Enquiry Committee who have observed that the journeys by Press Correspondents for which tickets are purchased in exchange for coupons are presumably made in connection with their journalistic assignments on behalf of Newspapers/News Agencies. Expenditure on purchase of coupons is, therefore, essentially a business expense which is reimbursed by the employer. They saw no social justification for the Railways subsidising business expenses of another organisation, Government or Private. However, the facility of purchasing tickets through Rail Travel Coupons issued at full tariff rates is still available.

Nursing personnel in Railway Hospital,
New Delhi

224. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:

SHRI G. VARADARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nursing personnel working in the operation theatres/intensive care unit in the Railway Hospital, New Delhi are given special pay *vide* Railway Board letter No. PC-115-75/PS-3M/ed3 dated 17th February, 1976;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the other staff working in the operation theatre in the Railway Hospital, such as operation theatre assistants, dressers etc. are not given such special pay;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Nurses in Operation theatre/Intensive Care Units in Railway Hospitals are paid a special pay of Rs. 30/- per month in pursuance of a recommendation of the III Pay Commission to this effect. The relevant instructions are contained in the Railway Ministry's letter of 5-12-75 and not 17-2-76.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The III Pay Commission's recommendation in this regard was in regard to Nurses only and other categories of staff were not recommended any special pay.

(d) Any liberalisation of the concept of special pay will have to be considered in the light of the recommendations of the IV Pay Commission appointed by the Government.

Expiry date of drugs

225. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several drug manufacturers do not indicate on the strips of tablets/capsules and on bottles the expiry date but simply mention the date of manufacture;

(b) whether this practice of drug manufacturers causes confusion as the customer is unaware of the date expiry