

Coach withdrawn due to corrosion

7371. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of coaches withdrawn from service, at a time due to corrosion as a result of unauthorised water-washing from pointed nozzles and hoses which is neither justified nor required as per design of the modern coaches.

(b) whether the certificate of need of repair, actual carrying out of repairs and expenditure for repair are being estimated all the three actions being done on the same level;

(c) whether repair needs are artificially inflated and coaches are detained up to 20/40 days resulting in heavy expenditures; and

(d) what is the average cost of repair thus incurred (including due to detention) and what would be the cost of rebuilding the old corroded coach?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Nil.

(b) and (c). No.

(d) Does not arise. However average cost of corrosion repair of a coach varies from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 depending on the extent of corrosion.

Setting up of Hospital Corporation International

7372. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal given by some Industrial and Business Houses to establish a Private Company, called Hospital Corporation International to attract Indian Doctors settled abroad to come to India with investment and their experience;

(b) whether the proposed Company will start a chain of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes to cater Medical assistance at various places in India; and

(c) whether the Government of India has given its final approval to this scheme; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c). No specific proposal to establish a private company called Hospital Corporation International has been received by the Central Government. However, certain proposals have been received from industrial and business houses and others for establishment of hospitals at various places and also to attract Indian doctors settled abroad. These proposals are considered keeping various related aspects in view.

Reintroduction of free passes

7373. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has decided to start issuing of "Free Passes" on Railways;

(b) if so, what are the new guidelines and priorities fixed for issuing "Golden" and "Free Passes";

(c) whether it is a fact that during the last year 466 free first class passes on Indian Railways were cancelled as a part of economy drive; and

(d) if so, how many "free passes" and how many "golden passes" have been issued and names of the parties, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d). A statement is attached.