

Assam, West Bengal and Mysore. Supplies to West Bengal and Assam, and Mysore States are arranged through the Ports of Calcutta and Madras respectively and the company do not have any storage facilities at these places so far.

(c) Its selling price may be cheaper or at par with the selling rates of the private oil companies depending on commercial considerations in each case.

Shortage of Nurses in Defence Services

222. **Shri Chuni Lal:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of nurses in the Defence Services; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make up this shortage?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken are indicated below:—

(i) Grant of Commissions to selected registered women nurses.

(ii) Training facilities to selected girls with minimum educational qualification of Matriculation and in the age group of 17—29 have been provided. They are awarded 'Diplomas' recognised by the Indian Nursing Council and are granted Regular Commissions in the Military Nursing Service after successful completion of 3 years training. Such training was being imparted till recently at three Military Hospitals only in the country. We have now opened a new training centre at Jullunder also in order to train a large number of nurses required in the Armed Forces. During their training period, these pupil nurses are granted

stipends at the rate of Rs. 30-5-40 in addition to free messing, mess servants, furnished accommodation, fuel and light, laundry and conservancy services.

(iii) Wide publicity by means of pamphlets and brochures incorporating the scale of pay, terms and conditions of service, etc. is also given with a view to attracting suitable candidates for a Nursing career in the Army.

Privy Purse

224. **Shri Nagi Reddy:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount paid each year to the former Maharajas of princely States by way of privy-purse upto now; and

(b) the number of those receiving 5 lakhs, 10 lakhs and 15 lakhs per year and above?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is placed below. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 23].

Merger of A.F.H.Q. with Ministry of Defence

225. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 669 on the 18th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the proposal for the merger of the Staff of Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Headquarters, New Delhi, has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if reply to part (a) above be in the negative the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) No, Sir.