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Title : Alleged humiliation and harassment faced by the fraternity of Military Nursing Service from subordinates and supervisors.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Thank you Madam Chairman. I would like to draw your kind attention to the serious and urgent matter of importance regarding different types of discrimination, physical and mental torture, harassment and humiliation faced by the 3,500 odd members of the Military Nursing Officers in spite of their rendering commendable service to the wounded and sick soldiers and their family members for 78 years since its inception.

The Nursing Officers of the Armed Forces Medical Services are commissioned by the President of India. They are issued a Parchment Certificate signed by the hon. President to this effect. The commissioning is preceded by an All India Selection entrance examination and training programme at par with other officers of the Indian Army. They are subjected to the Military Nursing Service Ordinance 1943, the Military Nursing Service Rules 1944 and the Defence Services Regulations.

Despite all these facts, the Army authorities refuse to accept the nurses as officers. They calculatively created a confusion among the Armed personnel by circulating conflicting letter and statements which reflect the prejudicial mindset of a few Army Medical Officers[r89].

This state of confusion created among them has been utilised to selectively discriminate, harass and humiliate the nursing officers in the grant of their dues in terms of respect and other privileges. It is perceived that the MNS is not covered under the Army Act 1950 which is said to be the reason for discrimination. But the Army Act is made applicable to them selectively for punishment and discipline and not for privileges.

The discrimination varies from changes in the uniform to forceful introduction of a revised form of Annual Confidential Report. Also, even the seniormost official of the Military Nursing Services, that is the Additional Director- General of MNS, is not allowed use the star plate and flag in her official vehicle. So, Madam, these Military Nursing officers are facing so much trouble in their duties. Even manhandling of the Military nurses has occurred. Various reports have come in the newspapers.

In view of the fact that higher officials of AMC are behind the move to intimidate and exhort the entire MNS Cadre, I would request that an impartial and independent inquiry hearing the grievances of the Nursing Officers of the MNS including the Additional Director-General of Military Nursing Services, the Senior most Nursing Officer who heads the service, to be conducted by the hon. Raksha Mantri himself and the grievances – or the prayers – of the MNS Officers may be resolved at the earliest.