

Converting 3-Tier Sleeper into 2-Tier Sleeper Coaches

*718. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHA-RIEF: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government realise the inconvenience that the passengers of three-tier sleeper coaches are put to as a result of shortage of space for movement or sitting particularly for long journey; and

(b) whether Government would consider converting the existing three-tier sleeper coaches into two-tier sleeper coaches in order to ensure more hygienic and comfortable travel in the sleeper coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE 1
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). 3-tier second class sleeper coaches provide sitting accommodation for 75 passengers during the day and equal number of berths for sleeping during night. During the day time the middle berth is folded downward to enable the passengers to sit in comfort on the lower seats and thus there is no difference between two-tier and three-tier second class sleeper coaches as far as sitting accommodation is concerned. There is no proposal at present, to convert these 3-tier coaches into 2-tier coaches.

Strike by Doctors of Safdarjung Hospital

*719. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Safdarjung Hospital doctors have again gone on strike;

(b) if so, whether the two days strike by them on the 8th and 9th March 1979 had greatly affected the working of the hospital;

(c) what is the reason for not accepting their demand; and

(d) when the demand is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) The resident doctors of Safdarjung Hospital went on a 48 hour strike starting from 9 A.M. on 9th March, 1979.

(b) It has been ascertained from the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital that the services were maintained by the senior doctors; however, the OPD attendance, as well as operations performed were affected adversely by the strike.

(c) and (d). The doctors of the Safdarjung Hospital had themselves no demand to make on the Government. They only went on a sympathetic strike for an early solution of the problems of the medical students of the University College of Medical Sciences.

2. The students/interns of the University College of Medical sciences who went on an indefinite strike from 19th February, 1979 and launched a hunger strike from 30th March, 1979 have withdrawn their agitation from the night of 5th April, 1979 and have resumed their work/studies from 6th April, 1979.

3. Government have given the following assurances to the students/interns of the college:—

(i) as clearly stated in the statement of the Union Health Minister made in the Lok Sabha on the 5th March, 1979, the Union Health Ministry have decided to take over the University College of Medical Sciences, and the necessary action

in pursuance thereof shall be taken after finally ascertaining the decision of the University of Delhi to transfer the College to Government;

(ii) The Dharamshala now under construction in the Safdarjung Hospital will be made available for temporary use as hostel accommodation, by 13th June, 1979 at the latest;

(iii) some of the barracks of the Ministry of Defence which have been vacated will be repaired and made ready for occupation as hostel accommodation by 1st week of December, 1979. As regards the remaining barracks, the matter will be vigorously pursued so that their vacant possession is obtained and necessary work carried out as early as possible;

(iv) the play ground will be ready by the end of June, 1979.

(v) Government will take urgent measure to provide adequate and qualified staff for the clinical teaching and ensure satisfactory teaching arrangements; and

(vi) the Government will not victimise the students and the interns. The Government will request the Delhi University that there should be no victimisation of the students/interns of the University College of Medical Sciences.

The matter in para (vi) above was also discussed with the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University who has kindly agreed to sympathetically consider the request of the students/interns regarding full condonement of the strike period and no cut in the interns' stipend.

Indian Workers for Saudi Arabia

*720. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any request for permission to recruit 4000 Indian wor-

kers through an Indian agency for deployment on a Saudi Arabian defence project;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government are seized of the complaints of low wages and bad living conditions in the project area while considering such requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) and (b). In August 1978, such a request was received by the Ministry of Labour and processed by them, since they were then dealing with the subject. However, with the decision of the Supreme Court in March 1979, making this matter a responsibility of the Protector of Emigrants, it is necessary that an application be made to this authority. Whenever the application is received by the Protector of Emigrants, requisite action will be taken thereon.

(c) Before granting emigration clearance to intending emigrants, the Protector of Emigrants scrutinises the terms and conditions of the contract of employment offered, to ensure that workers are not employed on low wages under sub-standard living conditions which violate norms of human dignity.

National Seminar on Breast Cancer

*721. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the observations made at the two-day national seminar held at Varanasi regarding spread of breast cancer among women folk of the country;

(b) if so, what are his reactions to the alarming revelations; and