

Grant of special allowances to Central Government Staff in Andaman Nicobar Islands

3545. SHRI MOTILAL HASDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basic conditions for granting special allowance to P&T and other Central Government staff working in Andaman & Nicobar Islands; and

(b) the reasons for depriving a section of P&T employees of these Islands of special allowance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Special Allowance in A&N Islands is admissible to the following categories of Central Government employees:—

(i) Mainland recruits/deputationists from Mainland.

(ii) Local recruits recruited in one area of A. & N. Islands, viz. South Andaman, North Andaman, Middle Andaman, Little Andaman, Norcondum Islands or the Nicobar Islands and posted to another area in A. & N. Islands.

Persons, who are permanent residents of Mainland, but are recruited locally in A. & N. Islands for service there, are treated as belonging to the area in which they are recruited in the Islands and are not granted Special Allowance so long as they remain posted in that area.

(b) Mainland residents recruited by the P. & T. Circle Office at Calcutta specifically for appointment in their A. & N. Islands Postal Division have not been granted Special Allowance in the first area of posting in the Islands, as they are not treated as Mainland recruits. The term 'Mainland recruits' has been interpreted to include only those persons who are initially recruited for appointment either only on the Mainland or both on the Mainland and A. & N. Islands but are subsequently transferred to the A. & N.

Islands. The case of employees recruited on the Mainland specifically for appointment in the A. & N. Islands is not distinguishable from those permanent residents of the Mainland who are recruited locally in A. & N. Islands for service there. The P. & T. employees are, however, allowed special allowance when they are posted out of their first area of posting.

Off-line stations maintained abroad by Air India

3546. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of off-line stations maintained abroad by the Air-India;

(b) the revenue earned by the Air India from these stations and what is the expenditure incurred on salaries, wages and perks of the staff employed therein apart from that on running the station-rent, staff cars, publicity and other incidentals; and

(c) what steps he propose to take to review the working of the all such stations with a view to economise expenditure in view of the mounting losses being sustained by the Air India recently?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) A list of the off-line stations maintained by Air-India abroad in 1979-80 is laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) A Sub-Committee of the members of Air-India Board has been constituted to examine in detail the question of loss incurred by Air-India and to recommend suitable measures to achieve improvements in operations and reduce the loss. Several steps have been taken to increase revenue