

Islands with a view to counter-balance the additional cost of living there;

(b) if so, the rate of additional allowance to be paid to those employees;

(c) what categories of Government employees will benefit from this compensatory allowance; and

(d) whether it will satisfy the demand of non-gazetted employees for 33 1/3 per cent. additional allowance?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (d). There have been frequent representations from the employees of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for the grant of an allowance to compensate the high cost of living in the Islands.

The Government have decided to sanction a compensatory allowance @ 7½ per cent of basic pay to persons locally recruited for service under the Andaman Administration and in receipt of basic pay below Rs. 500 p.m. subject to marginal adjustment.

This allowance will not be admissible to persons recruited or deputed from the mainland for service in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, who are already in receipt of Andaman Special Pay.

Coal Mines in Khasi Jaintia Hills

1277. Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government granted any Licence or Licences for operation of coal mine or mines in Khasi Jaintia Hills district (Assam) in last five years;

(b) how many applications are pending before Government for such mining rights; and

(c) when Government propose to grant these licences?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). Mineral concessions for operation of coalmines under the Mineral Concession Rules are granted by the State Government, though the prior approval of the Central Government has to be obtained. The information available with the Central Government shows that during the last five years, only one new mining lease was granted for coal in Khasi Jaintia Hills district (Assam).

Certificate Course in Assamese in Delhi University

1278. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi University proposes to introduce a certificate course in Assamese language; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the University authorities are in correspondence with the Assam Government with regard to the latter's suggestion for the inclusion of Assamese as a subject of study for B.A. (Pass) Course.

Allowances to Police Officers in Delhi

1279. Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any clothing allowance was given in initial stages to the Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Constables in Delhi, and if so, at what rate; and

(b) whether any House Rent Allowance or conveyance Allowance was being given to the Police Officers and if so, at what rate?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No clothing allowance is given. But on their first appointment to Police Service, they are supplied with uni-