

raised so as to ensure a fair return to the Nicobarese for his copra and betelnuts sold to licensed firms?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The matter is under consideration;

(b) No revision of the minimum purchase prices has been made since 1960 because the figures of profits earned for the last two years by Car Nicobar Trading Co., in which tribal cooperative societies are partners, did not justify any increase. The Andaman Administration will examine the question of revision of minimum purchase prices after the profits of the companies during the last year become available.

Minimum Wages in Andaman Islands

2078. Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to section 25 of the Minimum Wages Act and state:

(a) why contract labour imported by Government Departments in Andaman Islands are not paid the minimum wages fixed for that territory; and

(b) whether Government have received representations from such labourers for enhancement of their wages and other demands?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The contract workers of the Andaman Public Works Department, the only scheduled industry, as per Minimum Wages Act, in the Andaman Islands, have represented for increase in their wages. The Government have sanctioned an increase of Rs. 5 in the wages of contract labour. The question of setting up an Advisory Board under Section 7 of the Minimum Wages Act for advising the Administration about fixing minimum wages for employment on the construction or maintenance of roads or in building operations, is under the active consideration of the Andaman Administration.

Mountaineering Expeditions

2079. Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of expeditions carried out during 1961-62 by Army Teams to Climb high mountains;

(b) the mountains climbed by these teams; and

(c) other details of the expedition teams?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) No Army team as such went on a mountaineering expedition during 1961-62. However, 5 successful expeditions were carried out during 1961 by Indian teams which included Army personnel.

(b) Name/ Height of Peak	Date of Ascents	
(i) Annapurna III (24,858 ft.)	6-5-61	Out of 7 members, one was an Army Officer
(ii) Nilkantha (21,640 ft.)	13-6-61	Out of 6 members, three were Army Officers.
(iii) Devistan I (22,320 ft.)	16-6-61	} Out of 6 members, 3 were Army Officers.
(iv) Maiktoli (22,320 ft.)	21-6-61	
(v) Trisul (23,360 ft.)	30-6-6	

One team, all members of which were Army personnel, climbed the peak of KOKTHANG (20,170 ft.) on the 26th April, 1962. One more purely Army team, comprising 8 members, is now on the mountains for climbing MANA (23,860 ft.) and NILGIRIS (21,240 ft.).

Out of 14 members of the Indian Mount Everest Expedition, 1962, the leader and three other members are Army officers.

(c) Most of the members of the above mentioned expedition parties are ex-students of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. These expedition parties have been assisted by the Institute with technical advice and loan of mountaineering equipment.

The equipment used by these expedition parties is mostly indigenous.

The purely Army expedition teams were financed partly by Regimental funds and partly by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and Private subscriptions, and the remaining expeditions have been financed by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

Vijnan Mandirs in Madhya Pradesh

2080. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vijnan Mandirs proposed to be started in Madhya Pradesh during the Third Plan period;

(b) their locations, if decided; and

(c) how many Vijnan Mandirs were started in the State during the Second Plan period?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Phased programme for the establishment of Vijnan Mandirs in the State during the Third Five Year Plan has yet to be drawn up.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two.

Tribal Block

2081. Shri Basumatari: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any multipurpose or Tribal Block is going to be granted in the plains area predominantly inhabited by the plains Tribal people in Assam other than Autonomous District of Assam in the light of the Elvin Report; and

(b) if so, the area and district likely to be selected?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) and (b). In the Second Five Year

Plan, one Special Multipurpose Tribal Block was started in the plains area of Assam at Markongshelk in Lakhimpur District. During the Third Plan period three T. D. Blocks are proposed to be started in these areas at the following places:

1. Bijni in Goalpara District
2. Dotoma in Goalpara District.
3. Boko-Bougaon in Kamrup District.

Police Force in Delhi

2082. Shri Shiv Charan Gupta: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 332 on the 26th March, 1962 and state:

(a) how many of the police personnel in Delhi are permanent, quasi-permanent and temporary as on the 1st April, 1962;

(b) how many of them have put in service for more than a year; and

(c) what facilities and benefits are given to these police personnel?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Sanctioned strength on 1-4-1962, 1,2071, Actual strength on the 1-4-1962, 11,596. of the 11596 personnel who form the actual strength of the Delhi Police, 6227 are permanent, 2412 are quasi-permanent and 2957 are temporary.

(b) All the permanent and quasi-permanent employees and 2749 temporary employees have been in service for more than a year.

(c) They are entitled to the similar facilities and benefits as are admissible to other civil servants of equivalent categories. Certain categories of police personnel are in addition entitled to rent free accommodation or house rent allowance in lieu thereof and to conveyance allowance as fixed under rules.