

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6837
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010
HARD AREA ALLOWANCE
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of areas where hard area allowance is paid;
- (b) whether hard areas allowance is not given to the Central Government Employees serving in island other than Minicoy Island of Lakshadweep;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) Considering the hard living conditions and remoteness of Nicobar Group of Islands, Hard Area Allowance @ 25% of the basic pay was sanctioned to the Central Government employees posted in these Islands w.e.f. 1.4.2004 as a Special Compensatory Allowance. Subsequently, the allowance has been allowed to continue at the same rates and also extended to the Central Government employees posted in Minicoy in Lakshadweep Islands w.e.f. 01.09.2008.
- (b) to (d): Yes, sir. The Central Government Employees posted in Lakshadweep Group of Islands are, however, being paid Island Special Duty Allowance at variable rates, depending on the degree of difficulty of the place.