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Title: Need to regularize the services of 40 Jr. Engineers appointed on temporary basis by PWD during Tsunami in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (PERIYAKULAM): Sir, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands 40 young junior engineers were appointed in PWD on temporary basis to work on the Tsunami devastated area. At the time of Tsunami, no regular employee, regular engineer, was willing to go to the far deep areas because in one day water was rising by one feet or two feet, receding sometimes and sometime even not receding. [R88] [R89] In those difficult days, these 40 engineers did not care about their lives and went into the interior areas. They worked for the improvement of the Andamans and for the welfare of tribals in particular. They gave water and electricity connections to the people. They even took out bodies. There is nobody to help them. There is no coolie in the far away islands. They themselves cut the leaves of coconut trees. They even burry the bodies. They have put in much hard work.

Now it seems that PWD, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is recruiting 40 new engineers. I do not know why are they recruiting these new engineers. At the time of Tsunami, these people helped the persons who were suffering without caring about their lives.

So I would request that either they should be retained on *ad hoc* basis or be absorbed on a permanent basis. I had brought this matter to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister, the Chairperson of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, hon. Home Minister, and also the Minister of State for Home Affairs. These 40 engineers are very hard working. They were given an assurance that they would be absorbed. Therefore, I would request that they should be retained or they should be absorbed on a permanent basis.