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Title: Need for provision of Hard Area Allowance to government servants working in all the islands of Lakshadweep and Nicobar Group of Islands.

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the Hard Area Allowance at the rate of 25% is paid to the government employees working in Minicoy Island of Lakshadweep. Lakshadweep has been granted the status of a Scheduled Tribe area by the Constitution of India. The Government employees who are serving in various islands of Lakshadweep have to bear the isolation from the mainland. There are certain territories in the country which are welfare states and in a welfare state, the Government should not see the returns and there has to be a welfare approach.

I, therefore, request the Government to extend 25% Hard Area Allowance uniformly to all islands of Lakshadweep and also to Nicobar group of islands because all islands are equally hard, remote and isolated.