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Title: Need to provide Tough Location Allowance to Central Government employees serving in Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir.

SHRI THUPSTAN CHHEWANG (LADAKH): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Central Government employees serving and posted in remote and extremely difficult stations in our country are given special incentives and allowances from time to time to encourage them to serve in such difficult stations. The Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir State is the most remote and difficult stations of our country. In view of its extreme hard geoclimatic conditions and the high cost of living, the 6<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission had recommended and the Government having accepted, it was being paid a Special Duty Allowance (SDA) at the rate of 12.5 per cent in addition to a Special Compensatory Allowance called Remote Locality Allowance.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission, in their report, is stated to have recommended abolishing these allowances. The Central Government employees serving in Ladakh have been demanding and agitating for an increase in these allowances. Instead the Pay Commission is seem to have recommended its abrogation. The Empowered Committee of Secretaries are in the process of review and finalization of the report.

I urge upon the Government to make tough location allowance admissible to the Central Government employees serving in Ladakh as per the rates mentioned against R2H2 of the Risk and Hardship Matrix Table in addition to SDA and also enhance Special Duty Allowance to 25 per cent to make it at par with the Central Government employees serving in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

मैंडम, जो लडाख क्षेत्र है, वह सबसे डिफिकल्ट स्टेशन है। वहां कोई सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट इम्प्लॉई जाने को तैयार नहीं है। इससे वहां का काम सफर हो रहा है। वहां सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट इम्प्लॉइज़ की संख्या बहुत कम होती जा रही है। वहां पर इतना कम एलाउंस दिया जाता है कि ग्रेड-बी सिटीज़ से भी कोई वहां जाने को तैयार नहीं है।

इसलिए मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि इस पर गौर करें और सेवेन्थ पे कमीशन में यह रिकमेंडेशन जरूर शामिल हो, यह मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ।

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Thupstan Chhewang.