

**Official Language Policy—' New Entrant ' Status for Employees of Institutions  
taken over by the Government**

THE lack of uniformity in the treatment accorded to employees of various types of institutions taken over by the Government was brought to the notice of the Government and it has been decided that it is unreasonable to treat an employee as a ' New Entrant ' because the institution in which he was employed has been subsequently taken over by Government or incorporated into a Department or a Corporation or any other Government body.

2. The Government has therefore decided that, on their absorption into the Public Service, those employees *who had joined the Institutions before 24th September, 1956, should be treated as ' Old Entrants ' for Official Language purposes.*

3. Accordingly, such employees are exempt from the requirement of passing proficiency tests in Sinhala as a pre-requisite for confirmation in their appointments and for receiving increments. Those who have not been confirmed owing to their failure to pass these tests should now be confirmed (with effect from the date of their absorption into the Public Service) provided they have qualified for confirmation in every other respect.

4. Increments that have been stopped owing to their failure to acquire proficiency in Sinhala may now be restored, provided those increments have otherwise been earned. No arrears of increments relating to the period prior to September 8, 1971, should however, be paid.

This means that such employees will, from September 8, 1971, be placed on the salary step they would have reached had their increments not been stopped for failure to acquire proficiency in Sinhala. They will be paid arrears of increments from September 8, 1971, only, but not for any earlier period.

5. The provisions of this Circular will not apply to officers who had left the Public Service (by retirement or other means) on or before September 8, 1971.

6. This Circular is issued with the concurrence of the Public Service Commission.

7. The contents of this Circular should be brought to the notice of all those who have been absorbed into Government Departments or Government Corporations or other statutory bodies by the Heads of the Departments or institutions concerned.

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Colombo 7, 11th January, 1972.  
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