

any industry who has been in continuous service for not less than 1 year under an employer shall be retrenched by that employer until the workman has been given 1 months notice in writing indicating the reasons for retrenchment and the period of notice has expired, or the workman has been paid in lieu of such notice, wages for the period of notice.

According to the information available in this Ministry the gist of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated February 6, 1998 as reported in the journal Indian Factories and Labour Reports 1998(79) page 233, employees cannot be terminated arbitrarily and abruptly by notice of a month or 3 months or pay in lieu thereof - even if there is any stipulation in certified standing orders or contract of service.

The managements have to obey the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which is the highest Court in this country and all citizens are bound by the decisions/orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

#### **Assistance to North-Eastern States**

4005. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided Central assistance to the North-Eastern States and Sikkim for agricultural activities;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided to these States during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds utilised by these States during the said period; and

(d) the funds earmarked for these States for 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is attached.

#### **Statement**

*Release and utilisation of Central Assistance provided to the North-Eastern States and Sikkim for agricultural purpose during 1996-97 and 1997-98*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| State             | 1996-97 |              | 1997-98 |             |
|-------------------|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|
|                   | Release | Utilisation* | Release | Utilisation |
| 1                 | 2       | 3            | 4       | 5           |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 221.08  | 498.83       | 499.80  | 392.43      |
| Assam             | 1054.31 | 1009.85      | 397.48  | 654.80      |
| Manipur           | 1228.69 | 1360.17      | 1135.85 | 495.81      |

| 1         | 2      | 3       | 4      | 5      |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| Meghalaya | 442.29 | 432.44  | 256.77 | 152.56 |
| Mizoram   | 515.54 | 408.87  | 717.23 | 581.54 |
| Nagaland  | 786.50 | 1120.85 | 875.88 | 661.80 |
| Sikkim    | 314.72 | 484.08  | 340.66 | 275.40 |
| Tripura   | 379.39 | 405.19  | 533.97 | 395.75 |

\*Utilisation figures include funds utilised in respect of unspent balance from previous years.

During 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 7434.61 lakhs have been earmarked for North-Eastern States. The State-wise allocations are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

#### **Tribal Development Schemes**

4006. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sub-plan under the tribal development schemes;

(b) the details of tribal development scheme functioning in the States, State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated under Tribal Development Scheme by the Union Government since 1991 to March, 1998, State-wise;

(d) the number of persons benefitted in each district of Rajasthan under this scheme; and

(e) the details of poor tribals benefitted directly of the works done in districts Udaipur, Dongarpur, Banswada, Sirohi and Kota Hadoti by Tribal Sub-Plan Development departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Supply of Natural Gas**

4007. SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the Federation of Ceramic Industries Thangadh and Glow Tiles Manufacturers Associations,

Morbi, Gujarat for supply of natural gas to enhance their production at lower cost and without any pollution hazards; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir. However, Government have received requests from certain individual Ceramic Units of Gujarat requesting for allocation of gas.

(b) The Government have allocated 0.279 MMSCMD of gas to Ceramic Industry in Gujarat so far. Further allocation of gas is not feasible at present as the projected availability of gas is fully allocated.

#### **Imposition of Restricted Area Permit**

4008. KUMARI KIM GANGTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Restricted Area Permit was imposed in 1975 in Manipur and some other North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose of imposing it and the extent to which the purpose has been met;

(d) whether these restrictions have affected the States adversely economically and politically;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government are considering for lifting of such restrictions; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) The States of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh fall in the protected area regime under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958. These States were brought under the protected area regime due to reasons like proximity to international border, general law and order and security scenario, sensitivity of the areas and the presence of insurgent elements etc. Restricted/protected area regime is reviewed from time to time. The restricted area regime was completely lifted from the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura on 19.5.995. Similarly, certain additional areas have recently been opened in the protected area regime in the States of Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh to give boost to tourism and for promoting economic activities in these States.

#### **[Translation]**

#### **Door to Door Health Scheme**

4009. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Community Health Workers (CHW) engaged in door to door health services to the rural people have been getting meagre salary of Rs. 50/- per month since 1977;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to consider their demand to improve their service conditions;

(c) whether the Government constituted any Committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the progress made by the Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Community Health Workers (now renamed as Village Health Guide) are getting Rs. 50/- per month as honorarium for their voluntary services to the Community since 1977.

(b) to (d) An Expert Committee has been constituted to assess the usefulness of the Scheme and to suggest modifications or improvements, if necessary. The Committee is in the process of consulting various State Governments and Village Health Guide Associations on the issue and has not yet furnished its report.

#### **Distribution of Foodgrains to Drought/Flood Affected Areas**

4010. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains distributed from the Central Pool to drought and flood affected States/Union Territories during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any demand has been made by some States in this regard facing drought situations recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The quantity of foodgrains allotted from the Central Pool to drought/flood affected States/