

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/