Preference to small entrepreneurs in Government procurement

3787. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to give preference to small entrepreneurs in Government procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken any initiatives to promote small enterprises, especially in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To provide marketing support to MSEs, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has notified Public Procurement Policy for MSEs Order, 2012 under section 11 of MSMED Act, 2006. The Policy mandates that 20% of annual procurement by the Central Government Ministries/Departments and CPSEs has to be made from Micro and Small Enterprises.

(c) and (d) To promote MSME sector in the country including Rajasthan, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has taken various initiatives including Public Procurement Policy for MSEs, Market Development Assistance Scheme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP), Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Technology Center System Programme (TCSP), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Scheme for Khadi/ Village and COIR, A Scheme for Promoting Innovation and Rural Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE), Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) and Cluster Development Programme etc.

Theft of gas in Krishna-Godavari basin

3788. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the updated status of the probe conducted by Government in respect of theft of Gas in the Krishna Godavari basin;

(b) the further action taken/proposed by Government in case the inquiry has been completed and report submitted to the Ministry; and

(c) the estimated loss of revenue to Government due to this theft of gas in this region along with the steps taken/proposed to recover such loss?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government constituted a single member Committee headed by Shri Ajit Prakash Shah, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court to look into the issue of gas migration from block KG-DWN-98/2 and Godavari PML to block KG-DWN-98/3. The Committee had in its Report dated 29th August, 2016 concluded, *inter alia*, that there has been unjust enrichment to the Contractor of the block KG-DWN-98/3 due to production of the migrated gas from ONGC's blocks KG-DWN-98/2 and Godavari PML. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee and consequently, issued a notice on 03.11.2016 to claim restitution from the Contractor of the block KG-DWN-98/3 for the unjust benefit received and unfairly retained. Government through this notice has directed the Contractor comprising of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), British Petroleum Exploration (Alpha) Limited (BP) and Niko (ENCO) Limited (NIKO) to remit an amount of USD 1.552 billion along with interest upto 31.3.2016 towards restitution and an amount of USD 174.9 million towards additional Profit Petroleum. The Contractor has invoked arbitration.

Withdrawal of exploratory oil companies from Mizoram

3789. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three companies were engaged to work in Mizoram for exploration of oil and natural gas in Mizoram;

(b) if so, the details of the companies and the areas they were engaged in;

(c) whether it is also a fact that they have all withdrawn from their engagements without properly intimating the State Government; and

(d) if so, what is/are the reason(s) behind their sudden withdrawal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (b) Four blocks were awarded for exploration of oil and natural gas in Mizoram. Details of three operational blocks are as under:

(i) AA-ONN-2001/2 - ONGC and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. – in Aizwal district.

(ii) MZ-ONN-2004/1 – Oil India Limited and Shiv-Vani Oil and Gas Exploration Services Ltd – in Aizwal, Serchhip, Mamit and Lunglei districts.

(iii) AA-ONJ/2 – ONGC Ltd. – in Cachar, Imphal and Churachandpur Aizwal district.