

renewal, irrespective of the size of the lease would henceforth require prior Environmental clearance and that projects of minor minerals with lease area less than 5 hectare would be treated as Category “B” as defined in EIA Notification, 2006 and will be considered by the respective State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) notified by MoEF and following the procedure prescribed under the EIA Notification, 2006. NGT. Delhi Bench, *vide* order dated 05.08.2013, in Application no. 171/2013 in the matter of NGT Bar Association Vs MoEF and Ors., has reiterated the judgment of Supreme Court that all mining projects of minor minerals including their renewal, irrespective of the size of the lease would henceforth require prior Environmental Clearance. MoEF has also issued an amendment to EIA Notification *vide* S.O. 2731(E) dated 09.09.2013. Accordingly the minor mineral mining projects having less than 5 hectare of lease area are required to be appraised by the SEIAA/SEAC of respective State for granting environment clearance.

(c) No, Sir.

#### **Visa Bond Scheme by UK**

\*240. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that “Visa Bond Scheme” introduced by Britain for some “High Risk” overseas visitors to UK is applicable to India also; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps taken by Government in this regard to safeguard the Indian visitors going to UK?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

#### **Agreement for Atomic Energy**

†1649. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of advantages and disadvantages of the agreement regarding atomic energy signed between India and USA so far;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.