

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.

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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the quantum of power generation enhanced consequent upon this agreement; and

(c) the details of status of both the countries upon the implementation of the agreement on the atomic energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was the first step to civil nuclear cooperation and trade between India and the USA, as well as a significant step to India's cooperation with the rest of the world in civil nuclear energy, that enables India to meet the challenges of energy security, environmental sustainability and economic growth. The Agreement neither affects India's indigenous three-stage nuclear programme nor is linked to any extraneous commitment or obligation on India's part.

(b) The nuclear power generation capacity in the country has increased since 2008 as follows, due to better availability of nuclear fuel from domestic and international sources:—

Year	Total nuclear electricity generation in (Million units)
2008-09	14921
2009-10	18798
2010-11	26472
2011-12	32455
2012-13	32863

(c) The Arrangements and Procedures pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the Agreement with the United States was signed on July 30, 2010. At the company level, a Preliminary Contract for Technical Feasibility Study of AP-1000 between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and Westinghouse Electric Company, USA was signed on September 27, 2013.

Tree census

1650. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted tree census; if so, the details thereof during the last five years, State-wise, particularly in Delhi; and