

the ESP of Unit IV are being investigated and the supplier shall have to fulfil his contractual obligations.

Visa Restrictions by European Union

862. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any visa restrictions are proposed on Asians, Africans and Caribbeans by the members States of the European Union; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The European Commission has published a proposal under which 129 countries including India have been listed as those whose nationals shall be required to be in possession of a visa when crossing the external frontiers of the Member-States. The proposal is to be discussed by the Council of Foreign Ministers and adopted unanimously before it becomes effective. The question of issue of visas to Indian nationals was raised at the Indo-EU Troika meeting in Brussels on 8th February, 1994, when Government conveyed their view that new visa regulations being contemplated by the European Union should not be applied in a manner that inconvenienced bonafide visitors from India.

Consular Offices in Bangalore

863. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government for setting up consular offices of some of the developed countries in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, establishment of Consular Relations between two states take place by mutual consent. It is for the foreign Governments desirous of opening Consular Offices Posts, to convey their intentions to the receiving state through diplomatic channels. While examining such proposals / requests, inter alia, the principal of reciprocity is normally observed.

Mines and Minerals Act, 1957

864. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring amendments in the Mines and Minerals Regulation and Development Act 1957 to the effect that minerals important from Defence angle vest with Union Government and the rest with the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take suitable steps for deve-