

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1513**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

**CONTROLLING ILLEGAL SAND MINING**

1513. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism to check and control illegal sand mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with name of the nodal officers;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) details about the mechanism to complain about such cases across the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND COAL  
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): Sand is a minor mineral, as defined under section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). As per section 15 of the MMDR Act, State Governments are empowered to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith.

Further, as per section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 State Governments have complete powers to make rules for prevention of illegal mining and for purposes connected therewith. The administration of the mining of minor minerals is a subject that is completely within the domain of the respective State Governments. Hence, any complaint regarding illegal mining of sand can be made to the respective State Government.

Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, to use space technology for facilitating State Governments in curbing illegal mining activities in the country.

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