

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1809**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

**Clearance for mining at Pandai river**

1809. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to start manual or mechanized mining as done earlier in the Pandai river flowing from Nepal to West Champaran district of Bihar;
- (b) whether any public representative has raised any demand, in this regard; and
- (c) if so, by when Government is likely to permit this work, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c): Department of Mines and Geology, Govt. of Bihar informed that there is no proposal to start manual or mechanized mining in the Pandai river and no such demand has been raised by the public representative in this regard. Further, as informed by the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bihar, the Pandai river flowing from Nepal to West Champaran District of Bihar passes through the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, West Champaran and thereafter, it flows through the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Valmiki Tiger Reserve and the ESZ is 9 kms. in width from the boundary of Valmiki Tiger Reserve. As per the Notification no. 3026(E) dated 13.09.2017 and notification no.2765 (E ) dated 9.07.2021 pertaining to ESZ of Valmiki Tiger Reserve, all new and existing mining activity within ESZ is prohibited.

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