

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 616
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022

ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN THE STATE OF BIHAR

616. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of area under sand mining and amount of sand extracted in the State of Bihar;
- (b) the details of cases pertaining to illegal sand mining in Bihar along with the action taken by Government in these cases during the last three years;
- (c) the details of measures taken to check illegal mining of sand in Bihar; and
- (d) whether Government has conducted any study on the impact of sand mining on the rivers of Bihar?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (d): Sand is a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Section 15 of the MMDR Act empowers the State Governments for making rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Hence, the regulation of minor minerals comes under the legislative and administrative domain of the State Governments.

Further, Section 23C of the MMDR Act empowers the State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Hence, control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative purview of the State Governments.

However, the Ministry of Mines has prepared a 'Sand Mining Framework' in consultation with Mining Departments of the States incorporating best practices amongst States with the objectives of sustainability, availability, affordability, and transparency in sand mining. The 'Sand Mining Framework' has been circulated to all the State Governments for necessary action. Moreover, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has issued Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016, which, *inter-alia*, addresses the issues relating to the regulation of sand mining.
