

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1402
ANSWERED ON 13.03.2023

INCREASE IN ILLEGAL MINING OF SAND

1402. DR. SANTANU SEN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the illegal mining of sand has increased in the last five years;
- (b) if so, State-wise details thereof, year-wise;
- (c) the number of people arrested and convicted for involvement in illegal sand mining in last five years, year-wise, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government has constituted or proposes to constitute any monitoring Committee to stop illegal sand mining;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (f) the details of the steps taken by Government to stop illegal sand mining in last five years, year-wise, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): 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, 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, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has issued Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016, which, inter-alia, addresses the issues relating to regulation of sand mining.
