

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 129
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

129. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued any directions to state mining department regarding regulatory violation that was overlooked in illegal sand mining without obtaining mandatory environmental clearance in the industrial town of Baddi, Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of estimated loss due to illegal sand mining during the last three years in the State of Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) the appropriate measures taken by Government to curb illegal sand mining and the action against illegal storage and sale of minor minerals in the State of Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d) Mineral sand has been defined as a minor mineral under section 3(e) of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. As per section 15 of the MMDR Act 1957, the State Governments have been empowered 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.

Further, as per Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957, the State Governments are empowered to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation, and storage of minerals and for matters connected therewith. Therefore, the control of illegal mining is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Accordingly, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has framed 'Himachal Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) and Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2015' for regulation and control of minor minerals as well as for prevention and control of illegal mining within the State. Following measures have been taken by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to curb illegal sand mining:

- i. Restriction to carry out mining activities during night;
- ii. Custodian Departments made responsible to initiate action against illegal mining;
- iii. To lodge FIR for damaging public property;
- iv. Fixation of sign boards in Mining Lease Areas for information of general public;
- v. Constitution of Sub Divisional Level Flying Squad;
- vi. Delegation of Powers to other Departments to check illegal mining and seize illegal material/vehicles;
- vii. Verification of the Transit Passes beyond 50 Kms from Source.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that whenever any instance of illegal mining is reported, action is initiated against the offender as per the provisions contained in the 'Himachal Pradesh Minor Mineral (Concession) and Minerals (Prevention of illegal Mining, Storage and Transportation) Rules, 2015'. Accordingly, action taken against illegal mining, transportation & storage of minerals by the Government of Himachal Pradesh during last three years is as under:

Year	No. of Cases Detected	No of Cases Compounded	Compounding Fee (Rs)	Cases lodged in the Court	No of Cases decided by court	Fine Imposed by Court (Rs)	Cases pending in the Office	Total fine (Rs)
2022-23	8451	6635	4,00,97,292	834	605	1,17,48,700	973	5,18,45,992
2023-24	10036	8014	5,38,16,492	1240	535	86,79,900	1251	6,24,96,392
2024-25	10789	8267	6,35,67,899	1826	300	54,16,450	950	6,89,84,349
