

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*160**  
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

**ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN SONEBHADRA AND GHAZIABAD**

\*160. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- a) whether Government has reviewed compliance with minor mineral extraction rules in the State of Uttar Pradesh following recent reports of illegal sand mining in Sonebhadra and Ghaziabad districts, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the amount collected under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in the State and utilisation status till December, 2025 for the last three financial years;
- (c) whether the funds have been allocated to priority areas like water conservation, school education and tribal welfare in affected districts; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen real-time monitoring and satellite tracking of mining activities in the State?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 160 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2025 ASKED BY SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA REGARDING ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN SONEBHADRA AND GHAZIABAD:**

(a) Sand has been notified as minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR Act, 1957]. The State Government is 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 the MMDR Act, 1957, the State Government is empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. The Central Government does not have power to revise any order passed by State Government or any of its authorized officers under the rules made under Section 23C.

Accordingly, Government of Uttar Pradesh has framed the 'Uttar Pradesh Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2018' and prevention of illegal sand mining in Sonebhadra and Ghaziabad districts comes under the purview of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

As per the information received from State Government of Uttar Pradesh, following actions have been taken to prevent illegal sand mining in Sonebhadra and Ghaziabad:

(i) Task Forces have been constituted to prevent illegal mining. These task forces periodically inspect the approved/operational mining leases in the districts. Based on the findings of these inspections and after due investigation, the authorities take action against those found to be in violation of the rules.

(ii) The district-level task force holds regular meetings to formulate action plans and conduct intensive campaigns to prevent illegal mining/transportation/storage.

(iii) In Ghaziabad district, in the last three months, two FIRs have been registered against illegal sand mining on private land.

(iv) In Sonebhadra district, in the financial year 2025-26 (up to 9 December, 2025), notices have been issued in 5 cases of illegal sand mining.

(b) As per the information received from the State of Uttar Pradesh, the amount collected and utilized in the last three financial years in the State of Uttar Pradesh under DMF are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Amount Collected (Rs. In Cr)</b>	<b>Amount Spent (Rs. In Cr)</b>
2022-23	316.60	224.31

2023-24	348.36	184.78
2024-25	326.13	113.97
2025-26 (till 9 December, 2025)	143.68	76.15

(c) Yes Sir, the funds under DMF have been allocated to priority areas like drinking water supply, health, education and welfare of the mining affected persons in the affected districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) As per the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, following steps have been taken:

(i) Under the Vehicle Tracking System, GPS is installed in vehicles transporting minerals and the said vehicles are registered on the departmental portal *registration.vtsdgm.up.in*. Fifty-seven unmanned electronic checkpoints have been installed to check illegal transportation of minerals.

(ii) Under the Integrated Mining Surveillance System, the extraction of minerals is permitted only after geo-fencing of mining areas, installation of cameras and weighbridges at the extraction points, and integration with the command center located at the Directorate of Geology & Mining, Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) At the Directorate level, a Lab has been established to identify illegal mining through satellite imagery and to take effective action as per rules.

(iv) Pan-tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras and weighbridges are mandatory at mining sites.

Further, the Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines, has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in collaboration with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar to use space technology to detect illegal mining activities with respect to major mineral mines in the country including those in Uttar Pradesh. The triggers generated are shared with concerned state governments for verification and further action.

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