

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2890**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018

**SAND MINING**

†2890. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the proposed policy/scheme of the Government to check the damage to the environment from illegal mining of sand from the river beds;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make the sand mining free in the country to get rid of sand mafia; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be done?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Sand is a minor mineral, as defined under section 3(e) of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Section 15 of the MMDR Act empowers State Governments to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals including sand.

Further, section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 empowers state governments to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Control of illegal mining including issues of sand mafia are being dealt by the State Governments.

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