

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1034**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2018

**SAND MINE AUCTION SCAM**

1034. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for a probe by a central agency in the sand mine auction scam in Punjab;
- (b) if so, whether the request for such a probe was received from the Government of Punjab;
- (c) if not, whether the Union Government has received any request for conducting an inquiry in the said scam by the central agency; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): No Madam. At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry of Mines for a probe by a central agency in the sand mine auction scam in Punjab. However, it is stated that sand is a minor mineral and as per section 15 of the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, State Governments are empowered to frame rules for regulating the grant of mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith.

As per the information provided by the State Government of Punjab, there is no sand mine auction scam in Punjab. But however, an issue during the auction held in the month May, 2017 regarding depositing requisite amount towards instalment and security against a mine by a person other than bidder, cropped up. The Directorate of Enforcement, Government of India and Income Tax Department, Government of India vide their letters dated 31.05.2017 and 29.05.2017 respectively, had sought detail of certain bidders regarding money deposited (pre and post auction), bank details, file noting and present status of mine allotment along with copy of all documents and the same were supplied by the State Government to the concerned authorities.

(b): Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (a) of the Question above.

(c): No Madam. The Ministry of Mines has not received any request for conducting an inquiry in the said scam by the central agency.

(d): Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) of the Question above.

\*\*\*\*\*