

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2936**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018/ PHALGUNA 22, 1939 (SAKA)**

**SAND MAFIA**

**2936. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether killings by the sand mafia are on the increase despite making best efforts by the Government machinery to curb such killings;**

**(b) if so, the total number of Government officers including Police officers killed by said mafia during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;**

**(c) the total number of guilty persons arrested and the action taken against them during the said period, State-wise;**

**(d) whether the Government has analyzed the reasons for the failure to contain such activities; and**

**(e) if so, the details thereof along with the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce the relevant laws and contain such illegal activities?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

**(a) to (e): Minor minerals which include sand are defined under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 vests powers with the State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.**

**Under this provision, regular operations to curb and eliminate illegal mining and to take action against those involved in illegal mining are within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. Government of India does not maintain information about cases of illegal mining or killings by sand mafia.**

**Further, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies, as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens. The onus of defending the officers involved in prevention of heinous crimes including prevention of activities of sand mafia rests with the respective State Governments. Further, States/ UT administrations are competent to take action in their area of jurisdiction to protect the interests of their citizens.**

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