

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3327
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

SAND MINING

†3327. 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;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be done; and
- (d) whether the Government has constituted or proposes to constitute any monitoring committee and enact stringent law for the purpose and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a)to(d): As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), State Governments are empowered to frame rules for prevention of illegal mining, storage and transportation for both major and minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Therefore, matter relating to regulation and control of illegal mining is completely within the domain of respective State Governments.

Sand is a minor mineral, as defined under section 3(e) of MMDR Act, 1957. Further, section 15 of the MMDR Act empowers the State Governments for making rules for regulation of the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Therefore, the administration of mining of minor minerals is completely within the domain of the respective State Governments.

A committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Mines along with senior officials from the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, has been constituted on 18.05.2017, to suggest sand mining framework with a view towards ensuring transparency, sustainability, and availability of adequate supply of sand at reasonable rates. Draft report is finalised and made available in public domain for consultation.
