

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3331**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2018/SHRAVANA 16, 1940 (SAKA)**

**SAND MINING**

**3331. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that villagers are facing long legal battle against illegal sand mining across the country;**
- (b) if so, details thereof;**
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (d) the number of officials and police killed by the sand mafias during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and**
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect villagers/officials/police from the sand mafias?**

**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 gives powers to 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 citizens.**

**A report in the form of 'Sand Mining Framework' has been prepared & released by the Ministry of Mines based on a study conducted on sand mining in various states detailing the best practices adopted by states in areas of Rules & Regulations, Allocation of Sand blocks, Sale and Transportation of sand, Monitoring of Operations, Alternatives of sand and Consumer Satisfaction. The framework has been developed for assisting States to arrive at an appropriate policy and administrative system for addressing the needs of this sector. The framework examines states objectives, the Demand-Supply scenario, allocation models, transportation and monitoring mechanism, suggestions for faster clearances/ approvals and use of IT intervention in the complete process chain of sand mining. This framework also lays emphasis on the alternatives of sand i.e. Manufactured Sand (M-Sand), sand from mined overburden and import of sand for reducing dependency on river sand.**