

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 618
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2018

MECHANISM TO CHECK ILLEGAL SAND MINING

618. DR. RATNA DE (NAG):

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism to check and control illegal sand mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of nodal officers, location-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (d) the details of the mechanism to register complaints in such cases across the country?

ANSWER

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

(a)to(d): Sand is a minor mineral, as defined under section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Section 15 of the MMDR Act provides that State Governments have been empowered for making rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith.

Further, as per section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 state governments have complete powers to make rules for prevention of illegal mining and for purposes connected therewith. The administration of the mining of minor minerals is a subject that is completely within the domain of the respective State Governments.

Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, to use space technology for facilitating State Governments in curbing illegal mining activities in the country.
