

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1984
ANSWERED ON 03.07.2019

SHORTAGE OF RIVER SAND

1984. SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of shortage of river sand for construction activities including rural and urban housing and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the shortage and to ensure supply of river sand for construction activities at affordable prices;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to desilt the sand deposition in reservoirs and on river banks; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (d): The State Governments are custodians of the minerals located within their respective boundaries. The States grant the mineral concessions under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. For minor minerals, all policy and legislation for grant of mineral concessions, regulation and administration is covered in the jurisdiction of the State Governments under the MMDR Act and the Rules framed thereunder. As sand is a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the MMDR Act, the information with regard to demand and supply of sand in the country is not centrally maintained.

Ministry of Mines has prepared a Sand Mining Framework in consultation with Mining Departments of the States incorporating best practices amongst States and suggestions based on the objectives of sustainability, availability, affordability and transparency in sand mining.
