

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.890**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022

**Illegal Sand Mining**

890. SHRI P.C. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is monitoring the illegal sand mining in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to ensure strict implementation of guidelines issued in this regard considering the fact that many officers have lost their lives while executing their duties to curb illegal mining in the past, across the country;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure that the general public is aware of the legal source of sand and riverbed material (RBM) suppliers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d) Sand mining is regulated in terms of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR Act] and the Mineral Concession Rules framed by the concerned State Governments / Union Territories (UT) Administrations under section 15 of this Act. Moreover, Section 23C of the MMDR Act, empowers the State Governments / U.T Administrations to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith and to also enforce the various provisions related to sustainable sand mining guidelines.

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has issued the Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining in January, 2020, supplemental to Sustainable Sand Management Guidelines, 2016, to regulate the Sand Mining in the Country from its identification to its final end-use by the consumers and the general public and to control the instance of illegal mining through IT-enabled services and latest technologies for surveillance of the Sand mining at each step. This document serves as a guideline for collection of critical information for enforcement of the regulatory provision(s) and it also highlights the essential infrastructural requirements necessary for effective monitoring for Sustainable Sand Mining and to control illegal mining.

Further, MoEF & CC has taken several steps to ensure adherence to the environmental safeguards due to mining of minerals. These include, inter-alia, mandating the requirement of

prior environmental clearance under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time. It is to be noted that Environment Clearances (EC) granted under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Conduct of Public Hearing including Public Consultation are inbuilt in the procedure of grant of Environment Clearance.

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