

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF COAL**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2465**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON- 15.03.2023**  
**Manufactured Sand**

**2465. Shri Tapir Gao:**

**Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state: -**

- (a) the initiatives taken by the Government in promoting sustainability through the technique of producing Manufactured Sand;
- (b) whether the technique would help in curbing illegal mining of the sand from the riverbeds and riverbanks, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Manufactured Sand would be helpful in reducing the adverse effect of over-mining of sand on river morphology, if so, the details thereof?

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

**(a) to (c):** Sand has been defined as a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) and as per Section 15 of the MMDR Act, 1957, the 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.

Ministry of Mines has prepared a 'Sand Mining Framework' in consultation with Mining Departments of the States incorporating best practices amongst States with the objectives of sustainability, availability, affordability and transparency in sand mining. The 'Sand Mining Framework' has been circulated to all the State Governments for necessary action. The Sand Mining Framework mentions that Manufactured Sand (M-Sand) is the most common alternate of river sand. It also suggests that there is a need to promote M-Sand units on pan-India basis and to create awareness for M-Sand usage given the overall environmental and illegal mining concerns associated with river sand mining.

Further, as per the Sand Mining Framework, basic objectives of promoting of M-Sand are:-

- (i) To prevent damage to eco system by rationalizing the use of river sand in a conserved manner without causing damage to environment.
- (ii) To promote the use of M-Sand as an alternative to River Sand, given the increasing demand of sand for domestic consumption as well as the scarcity of river sand.
- (iii) To meet out the deficit in demand and supply scenario of sand in the States.
- (iv) To encourage the MSME sector in setting up of M-Sand units across all districts, generate employment and effective utilization of resources.

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