

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5279**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

**Extraction of Sand**

5279. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether any measures have been taken to prevent extraction of sand from the Yamuna riverbed and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the extraction has led to a decline in water levels of the river and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to conserve river systems as the biodiversity depend upon them and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Sand is a minor mineral and its mining including extraction from river 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 including the water level and other environmental parameters 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. Baseline data generation forms a vital part of the Environment Impact Assessment studies for the projects scheduled in the EIA Notification 2006. This study helps in evaluation and prediction of impacts on the various environmental attributes in the study /project area by using scientifically developed & widely accepted environmental impact methodology which covers air quality, water, noise, land environment, ecology, biodiversity and socio-economic parameters.

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