

**Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2250 (OIH)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023**

MONOPOLY OVER MINERAL SAND

2250. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
(OIH)

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mineral sand more than 1 mm in size is available across various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the States where the said sand is available;
- (c) whether all the suppliers of cement companies were directed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) through its notification issued in May, 2000 that the said sand is to be mined from Ennore/ Mudaliarkuppam of Tamil Nadu only;
- (d) whether the Tamil Nadu Mineral Limited has monopoly over mineral sand mined from Mudaliarkuppam or Ennore; and
- (e) if so, the justification of compelling suppliers of cement companies to procure mineral sand from Ennore/Mudaliarkuppam of Tamil Nadu only?

ANSWER

**उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b) : The source of standard sand in India was first arrived at in 1955 based on a study at that time comparing various sources within the country with that of the then imported sand (namely Leighton Buzzard sand from UK). The sand available in Ennore, TamilNadu was ultimately found useful as per the study and hence was included in IS 650 as the standardized sand for the purpose, having three fractions/sizes. Over the years and based on further studies, the source at Mudaliarkuppam (in Tamil Nadu) was permitted to be used as Standard Sand for the fraction/size 1 mm and above to less than 2 mm.

While, ordinary sand of 1 mm and above may be available in different places in the country, size is not the only criteria for 'Standard Sand' and is one of the 3 fractions as indicated in the Indian Standard IS 650:1991 on 'standard sand'.

As per IS 650:1991 and its second amendment, there are additional sources indicated from where Standard Sand could be mined and used, particularly for testing of cement towards standardizing the quality of cement by using standard sand in the testing process.

(c) : All cement companies are required to test cement for appropriate requirements using Standard Sand conforming to the Indian standard, IS 650:1991 'Standard Sand for Testing Cement — Specification (*second revision*)' read with its amendment no 1&2. As per the standard, the different fractions (sizes) of the Standard Sand have to be sourced from Ennore / Mudaliarkuppam /VadaAgaram/ Pallambakkam as specified in the standard through Tamil Nadu Mineral Ltd, Chepauk, Chennai-5 (a state-government undertaking owned by Government of Tamil Nadu). The standard sand is supplied in three fractions:

Specific Source	Particle Size
Mudaliarkuppam, Tamil Nadu	Smaller than 2mm and greater than 1 mm
Pallambakkam, Tamil Nadu	Smaller than 1mm and greater than 500 microns; and smaller than 500 microns but greater than 90 microns
VadaAgaram, Tamil Nadu	Smaller than 1mm and greater than 500 microns; and smaller than 500 microns but greater than 90 microns
NOTE — Supplies of the standard sand may be obtained from Tamil Nadu Mineral Ltd, 31, KamarajarSalai, 'TWAD House', Chepauk, Chennai 600005	

(d) & (e) : The 'standard sand' is a unique material used as fine aggregate while assessing the quality of cement by way of casting cement-sand cubes and testing such cubes for compressive strength to determine the 28 days strength of cement. For any type of cement to be tested (for compressive strength), the other material (sand) needs to be constant. Thus, a 'Standard Sand' sourced from a specified place and having a specific quality, is used to test the cement for its conformity to the respective Indian standard specification(s). As is the practice in other countries, to obtain the quality of cement, one 'Standard Sand' is uniformly used in India also.

To ensure the uniformity of cement testing and the comparability of the test results throughout the nation, it was imperative that a single source of sand be utilized throughout the nation for testing of cement.
