

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2713
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Illegal Mining from Rivers

2713. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of illegal mining from such rivers harming the environment and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the policy/scheme formulated by the Government to check illegal mining from rivers;
- (c) whether the Government has taken action against sand mafias engaged in illegal sand mining and proposes to make sand mining free from such illegalities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) to (d) Mining of minerals is regulated by the Mines and Geology department and Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 empowers the State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

The Ministry has taken several steps to ensure environmental safeguards due to mining of minerals, *inter-alia*, include mandating the requirement of prior environmental clearance under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time; conditions while granting the environmental clearances with due consideration of various aspects related to flora, fauna, air, water, land, environmental health etc.; issuance of Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016; and Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020 wherein the use of IT Technology, night surveillance through UAV/Drone etc. was proposed to control illegal mining.
