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Title: Regarding alleged illegal sand mining in West Bengal-laid.

**SHRIMATI LOCKET CHATTERJEE (HOOGHLY):** I want to bring before this House the atrocities being allegedly committed by various sand and soil mafias of West Bengal. Taking out the sand from the river bed and banks of our Mother Ganga and various other rivers was a very common scene in our State for many years. But, lately, these alleged sand mafias have shifted their focus to illegal excavation of fertile top soil from arable lands. The fertile soil mining has left the farmers worried, as the fertile top soil is very important for their farming yields. The Police and the local administration are allegedly not taking any action against the mafias. In my Constituency, Hooghly, even the lands around the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's home have not been spared by these land mafias. The farmers of Balagarh are crying in pain but are afraid to fight back against these mafias. I, therefore, urge the Government to look into the matter with urgent importance so that the farmers and land of West Bengal are freed from the clutches of these alleged mafias.