

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1156
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2022

ILLEGAL SAND MINING

1156. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale illegal sand mining occurring in the river beds of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, particularly in Jharkhand;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to regulate sand mining from rivers in the country; and
- (d) the details of complaints registered and action taken, State/UT/district-wise in Jharkhand State during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Sand is a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Section 15 of the MMDR Act empowers the State Governments to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Hence, the regulation of minor minerals comes under the legislative and administrative domain of the State Governments.

Further, Section 23C of the MMDR Act empowers the State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Hence, control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative purview of the State Governments.

However, 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. Moreover, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has issued Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016, which, *inter-alia*, addresses the issues relating to regulation of sand mining.
