

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 928**  
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

**ILLEGAL SAND MINING**

928. SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that there have been instances of illegal sand mining in Telangana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken by the Government to curb the rampant illegal sand mining in Telangana;
- (c) the details and the number of cases of illegal sand mining reported in Telangana over the past three years, district and year-wise; and
- (d) the details of the action proposed and directions issued to the Telangana State Government to curb the rampant levels of illegal sand mining in the State?

**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) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Section 15 of the MMDR Act, 1957, empowers the State Governments to make rules for regulating the grant of minor mineral concessions. Moreover, Section 23C of the MMDR Act, also empowers the State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. The administration of the mining of minor minerals is a subject that is completely within the domain of the respective State Governments.

However, based on the quarterly returns submitted by State Governments on illegal mining to Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines), the number of illegal mining cases identified / reported by Government of Telangana and subsequent action taken during the last three years is provided at Annexure.

Further, Central Government has, *inter-alia*, taken following measures to curb illegal mining:

- (i) Penalty for illegal mining has been made more stringent by amendment of the MMDR Act in 2015. Penalties for contravention of Section 4(1) and 4(1A) of the Act have been increased from Rs. 25 thousand per hectares to Rs. 5 Lakh per hectare and the term of imprisonment has been increased from 2 years to 5 years. Further, Section 30B of the Act provides for constitution of Special courts by State Governments for speedy trial of Illegal mining/Transportation/Storage cases and 30C of the Act provides that such Special Courts shall be deemed to be a Court of Session.

(ii) The Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines, has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS) to use space technology for reporting any illegal mining activity to the State Government who will take necessary action. Mining Surveillance System (MSS) is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to detect illegal mining activity beyond the lease area through use of satellite images.

(iii) In pursuance of the provisions of Section 23(C) of the Act, 21 State Governments have framed rules to curb illegal mining. Also, 22 State Governments have set up Task Forces to control illegal mining and review the action taken by member departments for checking the illegal mining activities at state and district levels.

(iv) Ministry of Mines has prepared a 'Sand Mining Framework' in consultation with Mining Departments of the States incorporating best practices amongst States and suggestions based on the objectives of sustainability, availability, affordability and transparency in sand mining. The 'Sand Mining Framework' was circulated to all the States for necessary action.

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**Annexure**

(The number of illegal mining cases identified/reported by Government of Telangana on the quarterly returns submitted to IBM)

Sr. No.	Year	No. of Cases	FIR Lodged (Nos.)	Court Cases Filed (Nos.)	Vehicle Seized (No.)	Fine Realized by State Govt. (Rs. Lakh)
1.	2019-20	7039	0	0	0	1175.6
1.	2020-21	5620	0	0	0	820.3
2.	2021-22	2831	0	0	73	793.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,490</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2789.7</b>