

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1563
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
MINERAL SAND MINING
Bellarmin Shri A.V.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the exploitation of sand beds and mining activities is going on in the sandy shores of Southern Tamil Nadu, Kerala and other States thereby affecting the Eco-balance;
- (b) whether the environmentalists have warned against such activities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures contemplated by the Government to put an end to illegal mining and construction activities there?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

- (a) Mining of beach sand minerals is not a prohibited activity under the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. Ministry of Environment and Forests has granted clearance for such proposals on case-to-case basis based on environmental impact assessment studies. No studies have brought to the notice of Ministry of Environment & Forests regarding exploitation of sand beds and mining activities affecting the eco-balance.
- (b), (c) and (d): Ministry has, in the past, received a few complaints regarding illegal mining of beach sand minerals. In response to the same, necessary directions/instructions were issued to the respective State Governments/State Coastal Zone Management Authorities to take appropriate action to stop such illegal mining activities.