

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3741

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010

EFFECT OF MINING ON ENVIRONMENT

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Abdulrahman Shri ;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the rampant exploitation of sand beds and illegal mining activities on the river beds in various parts of the country thereby adversely affecting the eco-balance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the environmentalists have warned against such activities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Central Empowered Committee on Environment and Forests appointed by the Supreme Court has detected several illegal mining activities in various parts of the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE)

- (a) to (d) : Sand is a minor mineral, and the State Governments are entirely empowered to regulate the mining of this mineral. Details of cases of sand mining and any illegal mining of this mineral are not centrally maintained.
- (e) and (f) : As per available information, in a report submitted by the State Government of Orissa to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in Supreme Court, the State Government had informed that out of a total of 596 mines in Orissa, only 341 mines were working, of which 215 mines were working on deemed extension basis, pending decision on renewal of applications. In order to reduce the pendency, the Central Government has advised the State Governments to set up Coordination-cum-Empowered-Committee at State Level and dispose the pending cases of renewal and grant of mining leases.