

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2929  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011  
MAINTAINING OF SAND LEVEL IN RIVER  
Punia Shri P.L. ;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the illegal mining of sand from rivers has been occurring in the country;
- (b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to prevent such illegal mining and its adverse impact on the quality of ground water;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been directed to stop illegal mining to soil from river bed; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which the Governments have been successful in checking such illegal mining in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Some instances of illegal mining of sand from river beds have come to notice of the Central Government. Credible information on adverse impact, if any, of the illegal mining of sand on quality of ground water is not available.

(c) & (d) As per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), Act, 1957, sand is a minor mineral. The concerned State/ UT Governments are empowered to regulate its extraction and thus have the primary responsibility to prevent illegal mining of sand from the rivers.

However, extraction of sand from the river beds located in forest areas requires prior permission of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and the Central Government on receipt of a proposal, accords its prior approval, with appropriate mitigative measures to minimize its adverse impact on flora & fauna, in and around the affected area.