

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1020  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013  
CHECK ON RIVER BED MINING  
Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda

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

- (a) whether the Government has framed the Mineral Concession Rules for mining minerals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the river bed mining for extraction of sand/moraine is rampant in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government against illegal sand miners to prevent adverse impact on ecology?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Mines has framed Mineral Concession Rules under Section 13 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) [MMDR] Act, 1957 which has been notified in the Gazette vide GSR No. 1398 dated 11.11.1960. The State Governments have been given powers to make rules in respect of minor minerals under section 15 of the MMDR Act, 1957.

(c) to (e): Sand mining is regulated in terms of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the rules framed therein. Mining projects of sand require prior environment clearance. This is with a view to ensuring that the mining is done in a scientific and sustainable manner. As per section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957, State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.