

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2563
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
STAY ON MINING BY NGT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered a nationwide stay on sand mining on river beds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) and (b) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) order of 5th August, 2013 in Original Application No.171 of 2013 restrains any person, company, authority to carry out any mining activity or removal of sand, from river beds anywhere in the country without obtaining Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)/ State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and license from the competent authorities.

(c) Sand mining is regulated in terms of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the State Government there under. Further, the projects of sand mining require prior environmental clearance. For any violation, the necessary legal action would be taken.