

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1819
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
USE OF RIVER SAND
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

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

- (a) whether there is a need to have proper legislation/regulation to extract and distribute the river sand in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct a research on finding a suitable alternative building material to substitute the river sand; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): As per the information provided by the Ministry of Mines, the State Governments are empowered to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals as per Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

The Ministry of Mines has framed draft Model Minor Minerals Guidelines so as to enable the States to frame their respective minor mineral conservation and development rules. Further, the projects of sand mining require prior environmental clearance as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.