

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3728
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
EXTRACTION OF STONES FROM RIVER
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether stones are extracted from river Geruha in Bahraich district near Indo- Nepal border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether such work poses a threat to the river ecosystem and if so, the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(PROF.SANWAR LAL JAT)

- (a) and (b) No information regarding extraction of stone from river Geruha in Bahraich district near Indo-Nepal border is available.
- (c) The extraction of stone from river may pose a threat to the river ecosystem.

Mining of minor mineral is regulated by the State Governments concerned. Under section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) [MMDR] Act, 1957, the respective State Governments are required to frame rules for mining of minor minerals.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 27.02.2012 in SLP(C) Nos.19628-19629 of 2009, inter alia directed that, the leases of minor mineral including their renewal for an area of less than 5.0 hectare be granted by the States/ Union Territories only after getting Environmental Clearance from MoEF&CC.

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has been requested vide letter dated 21.08.2013 to intervene for controlling the menace of illegal mining in the State, and to ensure that:

- (i) no illegal sand mining including cluster mining takes place in the State by taking strict legal action under the MMDR Act and the rules framed therein and under the Indian Penal Code.
- (ii) no mining leases of minor minerals are granted without prior EC. For mining lease area less than 50 ha, the EC is to be granted by the Uttar Pradesh State Environment Impact Assessment Authority. For lease area equal to or more than 50 ha, EC is to be granted by Union Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (iii) the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 27.02.2012 in Deepak Kumar case [SLP (C) Nos. 19628-19629 of 2009] and order dated 05.08.2013 of the National Green Tribunal in Application No. 171/2013 are strictly followed.
- (iv) regular monitoring of the mining activities in the State to ensure effective compliance of stipulated EC conditions and of the provisions under the Minor Mineral concessions Rules framed by the State Government.