

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6136  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015  
PROTECTION OF RIVERS  
Chaudhary Shri P.P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any action plan so that certain rivers of the country could be completely protected from sand mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of alternative measures being considered by the Government to meet the demands of construction industry in order to protect the rivers?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) In order to protect river beds from river sand mining, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has passed an order on 05.08.2013 restraining 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 Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoFE) / State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and license from the competent authorities.
- (c) The artificial sand manufactured by crushing the stones has come up an alternative to river sand. The States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa etc. have been promoting use of artificial sand in building construction.