

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3594
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2014
SAND MINING IN DELHI
Giri Shri Maheish

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sand mining activity is fully banned in Delhi;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is aware that sand mining is going on heavily in Yamuna Bank areas in Delhi;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to stop the said mining;
- (d) whether any study has been made to assess the revenue loss and damage to environment due to the said mining; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) to (e): Ordinary sand etc are defined as 'minor minerals' under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. As per Section 15 of the said Act, the State Governments have been empowered to frame rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Further, as per section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 the State Governments have complete powers to make rules for prevention of illegal mining and for purposes connected therewith.

Regulation of mining of minor minerals and control of illegal mining are, therefore, matters which lie completely in the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments; and are not primarily the concern of the Government of India.

Further, information relating to ban on sand mining in Delhi, or data on illegal mining of minor minerals, and in particular sand, and other such related issues concerning minor minerals, is not maintained centrally.