

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2742
ANSWERED ON 10.07.2019

ILLEGAL SAND MINING

2742. SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. HEENA GAVIT:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cases pertaining to illegal mining of major and minor minerals especially sand mining reported in the country during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken measures to check illegal mining of sand and if so, the action taken against the offenders during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Union Government has held any discussions with the State Governments in regard to illegal sand mining and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has developed any mechanism to check and control illegal sand mining in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the names of nodal officers, location-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the damage to the environment from illegal mining of sand from the river beds?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and rules made there under, the State Governments are custodians of the minerals located within their respective boundaries. Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 empowers the State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Based on the information reported by the State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines, the details of the cases of illegal mining for major & minor minerals, State/UT-wise is as under:

Illegal mining cases					Action taken from 2016-17 to 2018-19			
S. No.	State	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	No. of FIRs Lodged	No. of Court Cases Filed	No. of Vehicles Seized	Fine realized by State Govt (Rs. Lakh)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.
2	Andhra Pradesh	9703	8128	7644	30	18	648	8580.115
3	Assam	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	0	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	4794	4857	5060	0	14711	0	2525.374
5	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Gujarat	8325	7827	7679	325	21	20066	22118.33
7	Haryana	1345	1391	1380	517	0	0	1036.502
8	Himachal Pradesh	783	1753	590	0	410	4	69.761
9	Jammu & Kashmir	n. r.	1485	n. r.	0	0	1485	15.896
10	Jharkhand	838	2772	3132	1900	651	7028	3683.825
11	Karnataka	5692	4669	4101	3070	459	2716	6868.385
12	Kerala	4861	8315	7797	0	0	0	12299.32
13	Madhya Pradesh	13880	15205	16405	479	24456	2477	135439.4
14	Maharashtra	31173	26628	13436	4405	0	71237	28496.58
15	Mizoram	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	0	0	0	0
16	Odisha	45	47	29	2	4	82	1750.321
17	Punjab	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.
18	Rajasthan	3945	6632	17118	2620	44	293846	16021.118
19	Sikkim	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	0	0	0	0
20	Tamil Nadu	87	132	113	22956	45	39741	12798.062
21	Telangana	5839	6143	6553	0	0	2	4757.36
22	Uttar Pradesh	5737	20214	24455	677	4423	0	13864.06
23	West Bengal	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		97047	116198	115492	36981	45242	439332	270324.41

(n. r. – quarterly return not received)

(b): Sand is a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the MMDR Act. For minor minerals, all policy and legislation for grant of mineral concessions, regulation and administration is covered in the jurisdiction of the State Governments under the MMDR Act and the Rules framed thereunder.

(c) to (e): Based on the discussions in the Meeting of Union Mines Minister and Mining Ministers of States on 4th May, 2017, a high-level committee under the chairmanship of Union Mines Secretary was constituted to study the existing system of sand mining in various States and suggest a comprehensive sand mining policy. Ministry of Mines has prepared a Sand Mining Framework, as a model for adoption by the States, in consultation with Mining Departments of the States incorporating best practices amongst States and suggestions based on the objectives of sustainability, availability, affordability and transparency in sand mining.
