

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|----------------|-------|-------|
| 30 | Chhattishgarh | 464 | 1323 |
| 31 | Madhya Pradesh | 1138 | 1880 |
| 32 | Uttarakhand | 816 | 959 |
| 33 | Uttar Pradesh | 4161 | 4421 |
| | TOTAL | 39502 | 48131 |

Illegal mining on banks of Ganga

3502. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry's attention has been drawn to the fact of illegal mining and quarrying on the banks of the river Ganga in and around Kumbh area endangering the river itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Swami Nigamanand, a crusader against all those illegal activities died on 13 June, 2011 after commencing a fast on 19 February 2011;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken by Government during this long period to stop illegal quarrying on one hand and to save the life of the crusader on the other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (e) The Government is aware of certain media reports on illegal mining of sand and stones on the banks of river Ganga in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand. In case of minor minerals, as per Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the entire regulation is the responsibility of the State Governments. Even though these minerals are minor minerals for which State Governments are empowered to regulate, details of inspection by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of illegal mining on banks of Ganga

Main points emerging from the joint inspection of Indian Bureau of Mines and State Government of Uttarakhand conducted on 30th June, 2011 :-

- (i) As per State Government of Uttarakhand, mining leases for minor minerals of sand, bajri, and boulders were granted in favour of State PSUs, Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited and Uttarakhand Van Vikas Nigam in April 2001 and November 2002 respectively.
- (ii) The Mining sites are located in villages Ajitpur, Mishrapur and part of Ganga Shaympur fall in Kumbh Mela notified area (10 kms from Haridwar on western side), and mining was continuing till 17-6-2011.
- (iii) Mining activities in the river Ganga or areas in the tributaries of river Ganga (catching areas of river Ganga) had been undertaken in the past without obtaining environmental clearance, recent evidence had been washed away due to heavy rains.
- (iv) The District Magistrate had issued orders on 17-6-2011 to stop all mining activities in the area due to early monsoon and floods, and at the time of inspection no mining activity was noticed.
- (v) The state Government had earlier, directed the District Magistrate, Haridwar to ban all mining and crushing activities within the Kumbh Mela notified area on 10th December, 2010, and District Magistrate issued such directions on 14th December, 2010. Against this order, M/s Himalayan Stone Crusher has obtained a stay from Hon'ble High Court, Nainital on 29-12-2010 (petition No. 2137 M/S of 2010). Thereafter in the month of January, 2010 Swami Nigamanand filed writ petition against the Hon'ble High Court order dated 29-12-2010.
- (vi) Since, then operations in M/s. Himalayan Stone Crusher unit is closed in compliance of High court of Nainital judgement dated 26.5.2011, however, lifting of already crushed material was underway (nearly 6000 tones of crushed material and 1.35 lakh tonnes of uncrushed material was observed in the stock).