

Impact of river bed mining on ecology

176. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has framed the Mines Concession Rules for mining minerals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the river bed mining for extraction of sand is rampant in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether steps are being taken against illegal sand miners to prevent adverse impact on ecology; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of mines has framed Mineral Concession Rules under Section 13 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) [MMDR] Act, 1957 which has been notified in the Gazette vide GSR No. 1398 dated 11.11.1960. The State Governments have been given powers to make rules in respect of minor minerals under section 15 of the MMDR Act, 1957.

(c) to (f) Sand mining is regulated in terms of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the rules framed therein. Mining projects of sand require prior environment clearance. This is with a view to ensuring that the mining is done in a scientific and sustainable manner. As per section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957, State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

Animal deaths in the Wildlife Sanctuaries and Zoos

177. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of wild animals/other animals have died or got killed