

Guidelines on sustainable sand mining

1638. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come out with detailed guidelines on sustainable sand mining in the country and proposed strict monitoring and crack down against illegal mining rampant in many States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether State Governments have been losing Revenue worth thousands of crores of rupees due to rampant illegal mining and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has advised the use of technology like android application, GPS and unique bar-coding system to track illegal mining and those who indulge in exploiting the natural resources beyond permissible limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has formulated Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines in September, 2015. The Guidelines, *inter-alia*, emphasizes on monitoring plans to evaluate the long-term effect of the mining activities both upstream and downstream of sand extraction sites and streamlining the process of impact assessment, environment management plan and environmental clearance in cluster situation. The Guidelines, *inter-alia*, also emphasizes standard environmental conditions for sand mining *viz.* Stakeholder Engagement; Sustainable Mining Practices; Identification and Preparation of Mining Site; Monitoring the Mining of Mineral and its Transportation; Noise Management; Air Pollution and Dust Management; Management of Visual Impact; Bio-Diversity Protection; Management of Instability and Erosion; Waste Management; Pollution Prevention; Protection of Infrastructure; Enhancement of Road Safety; Closure and Reclamation of Mined Out Area; Health and Safety; Monitoring the Impact of Mining; and Mineral Conservation.

Sand mining is regulated in terms of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR Act] and the Mineral Concession Rules framed by the concerned State Governments under section 15 of this Act. The projects of sand mining require prior environmental clearance as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The enforcement of various legal provisions with a view to

containing the menace of illegal sand mining is largely in the domain of the State Governments.

India's stand on agenda of climate change summit

†1639. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) India's stand on the agenda of climate change summit organised in Paris;
- (b) whether India has formulated any strategy along with the countries having similar views on the issue of climate change; and
- (c) the possible benefits to India from the consultations held in the summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) India's stand on climate change negotiations is anchored in the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) as enshrined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol.

India has been actively engaged with the Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), the group of G-77 plus China and BASIC countries (Brazil, India, China and South Africa) to ensure an ambitious, equitable and balanced outcome in the climate change negotiation under the UNFCCC. India and other developing countries have been consistently stating that the developed countries must fulfil their commitments under the Convention to provide finance and technologies to developing countries to enable them to undertake activities for mitigation and adaptation related to climate change.

Maintenance of Green National Accounts

1640. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposals to maintain Green National Accounts has been pending with Government for several years;
- (b) if so, the current status of progress on this proposal and the expected time period by which Green National Accounts would be prepared;
- (c) the details of steps taken to implement the recommendations given by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.