

The Ministry has taken several steps to ensure environmental safeguards due to mining of minerals, *inter alia*, include mandating the requirement of prior environmental clearance under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time; laying stringent conditions while granting the environmental clearances with due consideration of various aspects related to flora, fauna, air, water, land, environmental health etc.; issuance of Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016; and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020 wherein the use of IT Technology, night surveillance through UAV/Drone etc. has been proposed to control illegal mining. Further, in pursuant to S.O. 804 (E) dated 14.03.2017, damage assessment and remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan corresponding to the ecological damage assessed and economic benefits derived due to violation is also required to be carried in case of violation of EIA Notification, 2006.

Impact of air pollution on health

3231. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had conducted any study to assess the impact of growing air pollution on health of the citizens in the cities and rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to improve the air quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare along with Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) has published a report in 2017 entitled 'India: Health of the Nation's States - The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative'. The study report provides the distribution of diseases and risk factors across all states of the country from 1990 to 2016. The five leading risk factors for Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in 2016 includes child and maternal malnutrition, air pollution, dietary risks, high systolic blood pressure, and high fasting plasma glucose.

However, the report is based on estimates as there are no conclusive data available in the country to quantify the extent of mortality/ morbidity, exclusively due to air pollution. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals.

In addition, for the rural population, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) sponsored a study entitled "Health effects of chronic exposure to smoke from biomass fuel burning in rural households: a study in Northern and Eastern India" to Chittranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata during 2008-2012. The study revealed that the low combustion efficiency of biomass fuels in traditional cooking stoves leads to a significant diversion of fuel carbon to products of incomplete combustion which could have adverse health impact like lung function impairment, respiratory symptoms, etc.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to improve the air quality in the country, which *inter alia*, includes the following:

- Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time.
- Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.
- Monitoring of ambient air quality at 793 locations covering 344 cities/ towns in 28 States and 7 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP).
- Launching of National Air Quality index.
- Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.).
- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards.
- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, construction and demolition waste and hazardous wastes issued in 2016.
- Streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate.
- Launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to

achieve 20 to 30% reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024. The plan includes 102 non- attainment cities, across 23 States and Union Territories.

- Notification of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and NCR.
- Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for air pollution control in Delhi and NCR.
- Organization of clean air campaigns, etc.

Illegal sand mining in Pangan river

†3232. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that illegal mining in Pangan river of Sanwal and Trisuli village of Balrampur Ramanujganj districts of Chhattisgarh is damaging the environment, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the policy/ plan formulated by Government to prevent illegal mining in other rivers of Chhattisgarh including pangan river;

(c) whether Government has taken any action against the persons, involved in illegal sand mining from the rivers; and whether Government proposes to make sand mining work free from illegal activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (d) Mining of minor minerals (including in Pangan River and other parts of Chhattisgarh) is regulated by the State Government and section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowers State Governments to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Further, Section 15 of the MMDR Act empowers State Governments to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals including sand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.