

Illegal sand mining

832. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has released guidelines to monitor and check illegal sand mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its implementation status, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of violations noticed/action taken thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has formulated the Sustainable Sand Management Guidelines, 2016 which focuses on the management of Sand mining in the Country. In the recent past, it has been observed that apart from management and systematic mining practices, there is an urgent need to have a guideline for effective enforcement of regulatory provisions and their monitoring. In view of the same, Ministry issued the Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining in January, 2020 to regulate the Sand & Gravel Mining in the Country from its identification to its final end-use by the consumers and the general public and to control the instance of illegal mining through IT-enabled services and latest technologies for surveillance of the Sand mining at each step.

Ministry of Mines has also prepared a 'Sand Mining Framework' 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 the sand mining. The 'Sand Mining Framework' has been circulated to all the States for necessary action.

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. Moreover, Section 23C of the MMDR Act, empowers the State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Therefore, the enforcement of various legal provisions including Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 with a view to containing the menace of illegal sand mining is within the domain of the State Government/ UT administration.