



MINSITRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE

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1. FOREWORD

Air and Water is the most consumed item in this world. The commodity, which figures next to that, is sand and gravel. In recent years, rapid development has led to an increased demand for sand as a source of construction material. This has resulted in a mushrooming of river sand mining activities, which have given rise to various problems that require urgent action by the authorities.

The main ensuing problems are river bank erosion, river bed degradation, deterioration of river water quality and drying up of rivers. Over-mining is jeopardizing the health of the river and the environment. This guideline provides criteria for sustainable sand mining both in-stream and off-channel extraction of sand, the theory of sediment transport in rivers, an important factors determining sand replenishment rate together with a discussion of the impacts of river sand mining.

Recommendations for management of sustainable sand extraction are the key objective of the Guideline. Emphasis is given to the setting up of monitoring plans that will provide data on profile changes and sediment transport capacity to enable the authorities to evaluate the long-term effect of the mining activities both upstream and downstream of sand extraction sites.

Special emphasis is given on monitoring of the mined out material, which is key to the success of environment management plan. So use of IT and IT enabled services for effective monitoring of the quantity of mined out material and transportation along with process reengineering has been made a part of the Guideline. The Guideline proposes delegation of responsibility and authority to the cutting edge level i.e. the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority along with streamlining the process of impact assessment, environment management plan and environment clearance in cluster situation.



2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(To be written after receiving comments from States / Stakeholders)



3. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development is built on three pillars – environmental, social and economic. Sustainable development cannot be achieved if the environment is protected but poverty is prevalent in a significant part of the population. Similarly, sustainable development cannot be achieved through inappropriate economic growth, if it undermines the environment in which people and businesses exist. These Guidelines support that fundamental concept, promoting environmental protection, limiting negative physiological, hydrological and social impacts underpinning sustainable economic growth.

Sand and gravel have long been used as aggregate for construction of roads and buildings. Today, the demand for these materials continues to rise. In India, the main source of sand is from river flood plain sand mining, in-stream mining, coastal sand mining, paleo channel sand mining, and sand mining from agricultural fields.

River sand mining is a common practice as habitation concentrates along the rivers and the mining locations are preferred near the markets or along the transportation route, for reducing the transportation cost. River sand mining can damage private and public properties as well as aquatic habitats. Excessive removal of sand may significantly distort the natural equilibrium of a stream channel.

Removing sediment from the active channel bed in river sand mining interrupts the continuity of sediment transport through the river system, disrupting the sediment mass balance in the river downstream and induces channel adjustments (usually incision) extending considerable distances (commonly one kilometer or more) beyond the extraction site.

The magnitude of the impact basically depends on the magnitudes of the extraction relative to bed load sediment supply and transport through the reach. Implementation of the principles and processes outlined in this Guideline will limit the negative externalities of sand and gravel mining.

4. NEED FOR POLICY GUIDELINES

Sand is naturally occurring granular material composed of finely divided rock and mineral particles between 0.06 mm to 2 mm in diameter. Sand is formed due to weathering of rocks due to mechanical forces. In the process the weathered rocks form gravel and then sand.

Sand and gravel together known as aggregate, represent the highest volume of raw material used on earth. The mining of aggregate has been continuing for many years. Now the mining of aggregates has reached a level threatening the environment and ecosystem besides also reaching a level of scarcity that would threaten the economy. It is recommended that sand & aggregate mining, and quarrying should be done only after sound scientific assessment and adopting best practices to limit the impact on the environment.

It is also felt that the greater use of substitute material (Manufactured Sand) & construction technology, and sustainable use of the resource could drastically reduce the adverse impact of mining on the environment.



5. OBJECTIVE OF THE GUIDELINE

The Guidelines has been based on the following principles:

- Uncontrolled sand mining is not sustainable.
- Compliance with present and future legislation and regulations on the subject is mandatory and not voluntary.
- Each lease holder should be given the opportunity to self-regulate to the extent that it can demonstrate compliance with legislation and regulations.
- Where self- regulation fails to deliver compliance with legislation and regulations, increased formal enforcement and monitoring should be implemented with punitive measures applied in line with the legal framework.
- There is a need to protect the environment and the right of the population to live in clean and safe surroundings, with the need to use natural resources in a way that will make a positive and sustainable contribution to the economy.

The main objectives of the Guidelines

- To ensure that sand and gravel mining is done in environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner.
- To ensure availability of adequate quantity of aggregate in sustainable manner.
- To apply river model studies in identifying the aggradation zones and quantities suitable for mining.
- To improve the effectiveness of monitoring of mining and transportation of mined out material.
- Ensure conservation of the river equilibrium and its natural environment by protection and restoration of the ecological system.
- Avoid aggradation at the downstream reach especially those with hydraulic structures such as jetties, water intakes etc.
- Ensure the rivers are protected from bank and bed erosion beyond its stable profile.
- No obstruction to the river flow, water transport and restoring the riparian rights and in-stream habitats.
- Avoid pollution of river water leading to water quality deterioration.
- To prevent depletion of ground water reserves due to excessive draining out of ground water.
- To prevent ground water pollution by prohibiting sand mining on fissures where it works as filter prior to ground water recharge.
- To maintain the river equilibrium with the application of sediment transport principles in determining the locations, period and quantity to be extracted.
- Streamlining and simplifying the process for grant of environmental clearance (EC) for sustainable mining.



6. THE EFFECT OF SAND AND GRAVEL MINING

Mining within or near riverbed has a direct impact on the stream's physical characteristics, such as channel geometry, bed elevation, substratum composition and stability, in-stream roughness of the bed, flow velocity, discharge capacity, sediment transport capacity, turbidity, temperature etc. Alteration or modification of the above attributes may cause hazardous impact on ecological equilibrium of riverine regime. This may also cause adverse impact on in-stream biota and riparian habitats. This disturbance may also cause changes in channel configuration and flow-paths.

The effects of sand and gravel mining are as follows:

- a) Extraction of bed material in excess of replenishment by transport from upstream causes the bed to lower (degrade) upstream and downstream of the site of removal.
- b) In-stream habitat is impacted by increase in river gradient, suspended load, sediment transport, sediment deposition. Excessive sediment deposition for replenishment increases turbidity which prevents penetration of light required for photosynthesis and reduces food availability of aquatic fauna.
- c) Riparian habitat including vegetative cover on and adjacent to the river banks controls erosion, provide nutrient inputs into the stream and prevents intrusion of pollutants in the stream through runoff. Bank erosion and change of morphology of the river can destroy the riparian vegetative cover.
- d) Bed degradation are responsible for channel shifting, causing loss of properties and degradation of landscape, it can also undermine bridge supports, pipe lines or other structures.
- e) Degradation may change the morphology of the river bed, which constitutes one aspect of the aquatic habitat.
- f) Degradation can deplete the entire depth of gravelly bed material, exposing other substrates that may underlie the gravel, which could in turn affect the quality of aquatic habitat. Lowering of ground water table in the flood plain because of lowering of riverbed level as well as river water level takes place because of extraction and draining out of excessive ground water from the adjacent areas. So, if a floodplain aquifer drains to the stream, groundwater levels can be lowered as a result of bed degradation.
- g) Lowering of the water table can destroy riparian vegetation.
- h) Excessive pumping of ground water in the process of mining in abandoned channels depletes ground water causing scarcity of irrigation and drinking water. In extreme cases it may create ground fissures and subsidence in adjacent areas.
- i) Flooding is reduced as bed elevations and flood heights decrease, reducing hazard for human occupancy of floodplains and the possibility of damage to engineering works.
- j) The supply of overbank sediments to floodplains is reduced as flood heights decrease.
- k) Rapid bed degradation may induce bank collapse and erosion by increasing the heights of banks.
- l) Polluting ground water by reducing the thickness of the filter material especially if mining is taking place at top of recharge fissures.
- m) Choking of filter materials for ingress of ground water from river by dumping of finer material, compaction of filter zone due to movement of heavy vehicles. It also reduces the permeability and porosity of the filter material.
- n) Removal of gravel from bars may cause downstream bars to erode if they subsequently receive less bed material than is carried downstream from them by fluvial transport.
- o) Ecological effects on bird nesting, fish migration, angling, etc.
- p) Direct destruction from heavy equipment operation; discharges from equipment and refueling.
- q) Biosecurity and pest risks.
- r) Impacts on coastal processes.

The other deleterious impacts of indiscrete mining include

Loss of riparian habitat resulting from direct removal of vegetation along the stream bank to facilitate the use of a dragline or through the process of lowering the water table, bank undercutting, and channel incision.

The physical composition and stability of substrates are altered as a result of in-stream mining and most of these physical effects may exacerbate sediment entrainment in the channel.



Furthermore, the process of in-stream mining and gravel washing produces fine sediments under all flow conditions, resulting in a deposition of fine sediment in riffles as well as other habitats at low discharge.

Excess sediment is considered the greatest pollutant in waters and constitutes one of the major environmental factors in the degradation of stream fisheries.

However, in-stream mining may contribute additional sediment to downstream reaches due to the disruption of substrate stability. Once sediment enters the stream, it is best to let natural geomorphological and hydrological processes reach a dynamic equilibrium, rather than further exacerbating the situation by additional disturbance.

All other things being equal:

- a) Extracting gravel from an excavation that does not penetrate the water table and is located away from an active stream channel should cause little or no change to the natural hydrological processes unless the stream captures the pit during periods of flooding. The exception is that changes in evapotranspiration, recharge, and runoff may create minor changes to the ground-water system, which may in turn affect stream flow.
- b) In-stream extraction of gravel from below the water level of a stream generally causes more changes to the natural hydrologic processes than limiting extraction to a reference point above the water level.
- c) In-stream extraction of gravel below the deepest part of the channel (the thalweg) generally causes more changes to the natural hydrologic processes than limiting extraction to a reference point above the thalweg.
- d) Excavating sand and gravel from a small straight channel with a narrow floodplain generally will have a greater impact on the natural hydrological processes than excavations on a braided channel with a wide floodplain.
- e) Extracting sand and gravel from a large river or stream will generally create less impact than extracting the same amount of material from a smaller river or stream.
- f) Over-extraction of gravel can destabilise channels and banks, and/or affect the ecologic functioning of rivers particularly if undertaken at the wrong time, or in the wrong place, or in a way that damages the river bed or margins.



7. GENERAL APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE SAND AND GRAVEL MINING

Following considerations should be kept in mind for sand / gravel mining:

- a) Parts of the river reach that experience deposition or aggradation shall be identified first. The Lease holder/ EC holder may be allowed to extract the sand and gravel deposit in these locations to lessen aggradation problem.
- b) The distance between sites for sand and gravel mining shall depend on the replenishment rate of the river. Sediment rating curve for the potential sites shall be developed and checked against the extracted volumes of sand and gravel.
- c) Sand and gravel may be extracted across the entire active channel during the dry season.
- d) Abandoned stream channels on terrace and inactive floodplains be preferred rather than active channels and their deltas and flood plains. Stream should not be diverted to form inactive channel.
- e) Layers of sand and gravel which could be removed from the river bed shall depend on the width of the river and replenishment rate of the river.
- f) Sand and gravel shall not be allowed to be extracted where erosion may occur, such as at the concave bank.
- g) Segments of braided river system should be used preferably falling within the lateral migration area of the river regime that enhances the feasibility of sediment replenishment.
- h) Sand and gravel shall not be extracted within 200 to 500 meter from any crucial hydraulic structure such as pumping station, water intakes, and bridges. The cross-section survey should cover a minimum distance of 1.0 km upstream and 1.0 km downstream of the potential reach for extraction. The sediment sampling should include the bed material and bed material load before, during and after extraction period. Develop a sediment rating curve at the upstream end of the potential reach using the surveyed cross- section. Using the historical or gauged flow rating curve, determine the suitable period of high flow that can replenish the extracted volume. Calculate the extraction volume based on the sediment rating curve and high flow period after determining the allowable mining depth.
- i) Sand and gravel could be extracted from the downstream of the sand bar at river bends. Retaining the upstream one to two thirds of the bar and riparian vegetation is accepted as a method to promote channel stability.
- j) Flood discharge capacity of the river could be maintained in areas where there are significant flood hazard to existing structures or infrastructure. Sand and gravel mining may be allowed to maintain the natural flow capacity based on surveyed cross- section history.
- k) Alternatively, off-channel or floodplain extraction is recommended to allow rivers to replenish the quantity taken out during in-stream mining.
- l) The Piedmont Zone (Bhabhar area) particularly in the Himalayan foothills, where riverbed material is mined, this sandy-gravelly track constitutes excellent conduits and holds the greater potential for ground water recharge. Mining in such areas should be preferred in locations selected away from the channel bank stretches.
- m) Mining should be restricted to 3 meter depth and 3 meter or 10 percent of the river width whichever less, away from the banks is.
- n) Demarcation of mining area with pillars and geo-referencing should be done prior to start of mining.



8. THE WORLD SCENARIO

Sand and gravel are mined world-wide and account for the largest volume of solid material extracted globally. Formed by erosive processes over thousands of years, they are now being extracted at a rate far greater than their renewal. Furthermore, the volume being extracted is having a major impact on rivers, deltas and coastal and marine ecosystems, resulting in loss of land through river or coastal erosion, lowering of the water table and decrease in the amount of sediment supply. Despite the colossal quantities of sand and gravel being used, increasing dependence on them and the significant impact that their extraction has on the environment, this issue needs far better attention and awareness.

Globally, between 47 and 59 billion tonnes of material is mined every year of which sand and gravel, known as aggregates, account for both the largest share (from 68% to 85%) and the fastest extraction increase. Although more sand and gravel are mined than any other material, reliable data on their extraction is not available. The absence of global data on aggregates mining makes environmental assessment very difficult and has contributed to the lack of awareness about this issue. One way to estimate the global use of aggregates indirectly is through the production of cement for concrete (concrete is made with cement, water, sand and gravel). The production of cement is reported by 150 countries and reached 3.7 billion tonnes in 2012 (USGS, 2013a). For each tonne of cement, the building industry needs about six to seven times more tonnes of sand and gravel (USGS, 2013b). Thus, the world's use of aggregates for concrete can be estimated at 25.9 billion tonnes a year for 2012 alone.

Added to this are all the aggregates used in land reclamation, shoreline developments and road embankments (for which the global statistics are unavailable), added to this is the 180 million tonnes of sand used in industry (USGS, 2012). Aggregates also contribute to 90% of asphalt pavements and 80% of concrete roads (Robinson and Brown, 2002). Taking all these estimates into account, a conservative estimate for the world consumption of aggregates exceeds 40 billion tonnes a year.

This large quantity of material cannot be extracted and used without a significant impact on the environment. Extraction has an impact on biodiversity, water turbidity, water table levels and landscape and on climate through carbon dioxide emissions from transportation. There are also socio-economic, cultural and even political consequences. In some extreme cases, the mining of marine aggregates has changed international boundaries, such as through the disappearance of sand islands in Indonesia (New York Times, 2010; Guerin, 2003). The impacts can be mainly categorized as follows:

IMPACTS ON	DESCRIPTION
Biodiversity	Impacts on related ecosystems (for example; fisheries)
Land losses	Both inland and coastal through erosion
Hydrological functions	Change in water flows, flood regulation and marine currents
Water supply	Through lowering of the water table and pollution
Infrastructures	Damage to bridges, river embankments and coastal infrastructures
Climate	Directly through transport emissions
Landscape	Coastal erosion, changes in deltaic structures, quarries, pollution of rivers
Extreme events	Decline of protection against extreme events (flood, drought, storm surge)

World over sand was until recently extracted in land quarries and riverbeds; however, a shift to marine and coastal aggregates mining has occurred due to the decline of inland resources. River and marine aggregates remain the main sources for building and land reclamation. For concrete, in-stream gravel requires less processing and produces high-quality material while marine aggregate needs to be thoroughly washed to remove salt. If the sodium is not removed from marine aggregate, a structure built with it might collapse after few decades due to corrosion of its metal structures. Most sand from deserts cannot be used for concrete and land reclaiming, as the wind erosion process forms round grains that do not bind well.



9. INDIAN SCENARIO

The data on consumption of sand and aggregate in country is not available with any source. It can be derived indirectly from the usage of cement, construction of roads and stowing of mines. The trend for aggregates extraction can be estimated using cement production as a proxy.

Cement production has multiplied three-fold in the last 20 years from 1.37 billion tonnes of cement in 1994 to 3.7 billion tonnes in 2012 (USGS, 2013a) mainly as a result of rapid economic growth in Asia (UNEP and CSIRO, 2011). Five countries: China (58%), India (6.75%), the United States (2%), Brazil and Turkey — produce 70% of the world's cement (USGS, 2013c). The consumption of cement is expected to reach 324 million tonnes, which equates to use of 2.2 billion tonnes of aggregates. This is in addition to sand and aggregates used in stowing of mines, industry and other allied usage.

In India the main sources of sand are:

- (a) River (riverbed and flood plain).
- (b) Lakes and reservoirs.
- (c) Agricultural fields (Haryana).
- (d) Coastal / marine sand.
- (e) Palaeo-channels (Bikaner in Rajasthan).

10. THE PRICE ELASTICITY FOR DEMAND OF SAND

As the price elasticity of demand for sand is inelastic (-0.88), any increase in price in absence of marketable alternative will not have any significant impact on demand. Use of crushed stones or other substitute material should be promoted. The regional context of aggregate resources, market demand, and the environmental impacts of various alternatives must be understood before any site-specific proposal for aggregate extraction can be reviewed.

Evaluation of aggregate supply and demand should be undertaken on the basis of production–consumption regions, encompassing the market for aggregate and all potential sources of aggregate within an economical transport distance. The finite nature of high-quality alluvial gravel resources must be recognized, and high-quality PCC-grade aggregates should be reserved only for the uses demanding this quality material (such as concrete). Alternative sources should be used in less demanding applications (such as road sub-base). Use of fly ash in roads and embankments be promoted in place of sand and aggregates.

The environmental costs of in-stream mining should be incorporated into the price of the product so that alternative sources that require more processing but have less environmental impact become more attractive.

11. PROCESS OF SEDIMENT TRANSPORT

The loose boundary (consisting of movable material) of an alluvial channel deforms under the action of flowing water and the deformed bed with its changing roughness (bed forms) interacts with the flow. The resulting movement of the bed material (sediment) in the direction of flow is called sediment transport and a critical bed shear stress must be exceeded to start the particle movement.

Such a critical shear stress is referred as incipient (threshold) motion condition, below which the particles will be at rest and the flow is similar to that on a rigid boundary. Some sediment particles roll or slide along the bed intermittently and some others saltate (hopping or bouncing along the bed). The material transported in one or both of these modes is called 'bed load'.

Finer particles (with low fall velocities) are entrained in suspension by the fluid turbulence and transported along the channel in suspension. This mode of transport is called 'suspended load'. Sometimes finer particles from upland catchment (sizes which are not present in the bed material), called 'wash load', are also transported in suspension. The combined bed material and wash load is called 'total load'.



Bed load ranges from a few percent of total load in lowland rivers to perhaps 15% in Mountain Rivers to over 60% in some arid catchments. Although a relatively small part of the total sediment load, the arrangement of bed load sediment constitutes the architecture of sand, and gravel-bed channels.

The rate of sediment transport typically increases as a power function of flow; that is, a doubling of flow typically produces more than a doubling in sediment transport and most sediment transport occurs during floods. The environmental impacts from in-stream mining can be avoided, if the annual bed load is calculated and aggregate extraction is restricted to that value or some portion of it. To accurately limit extraction to some portion of bed load, the amount of sediment that passes the in-stream mining site during a given period of time must be calculated.

There is a large amount of uncertainty in the process of calculating annual rates of bed load transport. How much coarse material is moved, how long it remains in motion as also how far it moves depends on the size, shape & packing of the material and the characteristics of the river flow.

Downstream movement commonly occurs as irregular bursts of short-distance movement separated by longer periods, when the particles remain at rest. Because bed load changes from hour-to-hour, day-to-day, and year-to-year, estimating annual bed load rates is a dynamic process involving careful examination.

Constant variations in the flow of the river make the channel floor and riverbanks a dynamic interface, where some materials are being eroded while others are being deposited. The net balance of this activity, on a short-term basis, is referred to as scour or fill.

On a long-term basis, continued scour results in erosion (degradation), while continued fill results in deposition (aggradation).

A general indicator of the stability of a stream relates to the amount of vegetation present. Gravel bars that are vegetated or where the gravel is tightly packed, generally indicate streams, where the gravel supply is in balance. Streams with excessive gravel generally have gravel bars with little or no vegetation, and are surfaced with loosely packed gravel.

12. SUSTAINABLE SAND AND GRAVEL MINING GUIDELINE

The broad principle on which any sustainable sand mining guideline / policy can be based is that river/natural resources must be utilized for the benefit of the present and future generation, so river resources should be prudently managed and developed.

The Processes under the Guideline:

- (a) Identification of areas of accretion / deposition where mining can be allowed; and identification of areas of erosion and proximity to infrastructural structures and installations where mining should be prohibited.
- (b) Calculation of annual rate of replenishment and allowing time for replenishment after mining in area.
- (c) Identifying ways of scientific and systematic mining.
- (d) Identifying measures for protection of environment and ecology.
- (e) Determining measures for protection of bank erosion.
- (f) Identifying steps for conservation of mineral.
- (g) Implementing safeguards for checking illegal and indiscrete mining.

Following the above processes, to begin with it is important to prepare a survey document mapping the status of sand sources in a district. This survey should be conducted and report be prepared for each district. Though it is an acceptable fact that rivers cut across districts and States and every river is an ecosystem in itself. But, keeping in view the fact that the district is the most established unit of administration at which this kind of survey, planning and monitoring can be ensured effectively, it is proposed that every district will prepare this document taking the river stretch in that district as an ecological unit and inventorising other sources of sand in the district.



Besides, the production of aggregate in a particular area is a function of availability of natural resources, the size of the population, the economy of the area and various developmental and infrastructural works being undertaken in the area.

The natural resources must be utilized in environment friendly manner in scientific and systematic way and with the objective of sustainable development the policy on the subject should have provisions for protection of environment & ecology. These factors can be accounted for in a most efficient manner at district level.

The sustainable mining plan needs to be dynamic. A survey should be carried out by the District Administration using Geological Department/ Irrigation Department/ Forest Department/ PWD/ Ground Water Boards/ Remote Sensing Department/ Mining Department etc. in the district.

The survey shall contain:

1. District wise detail of river / stream and other sand source.
2. District wise availability of sand / gravel / aggregate resources.
3. District wise detail of existing mining leases of sand and aggregates.

Based on this survey document, the action plan shall divide the river/ stream/ other sources of the District into the following categories:

1. River / Stream beds sections / other sources selected for extraction of sand and aggregates.
2. River / Stream beds sections / other sources prohibited for extraction of sand and aggregates.

The river/ streams/ other sources of sand and aggregate are studied on following parameters:

a) Geomorphological studies

- i) Place of origin
- ii) Catchment area.
- iii) General profile of river stream.
- iv) Annual deposition factor.
- v) Replenishment.
- vi) Total potential of minor mineral in the river bed.

b) Geological studies

- i) Lithology of catchment area.
- ii) Tectonics and structural behavior of rocks.

c) Climatic Factors

- i) Intensity of rainfall.
- ii) Climate Zone.
- iii) Temperature variation

The following points be considered while selecting the river / stream for mining besides the above:

- i) A stable river is able to constantly transport the flow of sediments produced by watershed such that it's dimensions (width and depth) pattern and vertical profile are maintained without aggrading (building up) or degrading (scouring down).
- ii) The amount of boulders, cobbles, pebbles, and sand deposited in river bed equals to the amount delivered to the river from catchment area and from bank erosion minus amount transported downstream each year.
- iii) It is compulsive nature of river to meander in their beds and therefore they will have to be provided with adequate corridor for meandering without hindrance. Any attempt to diminish the width of the corridor (floodway) and curb the freedom to meander would prove counterproductive.
- iv) Erosion and deposition is law of nature. The river stream has to complete its geomorphological cycles from youth, mature to old age.
- v) River capturing is unavoidable.
- vi) Fundamentally the lowest point of any stream is fixed by sea level.

This survey document should be prepared in the district based on direct and indirect benefits of mining and identification of the potential threats to the river / stream beds in the district.



Besides, calculating the carrying capacity of the river / stream beds / other sources to find out maximum quantity available to be allowed to remove each year from the sources, it should also provide various measures to regulate sand and aggregate mining in a systemic way.

It has to provide for environmentally safe depth of mining and safeguards of banks by prescribing safe distance from banks.

It is required that there should be a Sub-Divisional Committee which should visit each site and make recommendation.

The Committee should comprise of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Officers from PWD, Irrigation, SPCB, Forest, ground water board, and mining officer as its members.

13. THE STRUCTURE OF DISTRICT SURVEY REPORT

The report can have following structure:

01. Introduction
02. Overview of Mining Activity in the District
03. The List of Mining Leases in the District with location, area and period of validity.
04. Details of Royalty / Revenue Received in last three years.
05. Detail of Production of Sand / Bajari / minor mineral in last three years.
06. Process of Deposition of Sediments in the rivers of the District.
07. General Profile of the District
08. Land Utilization Pattern in the district: Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Mining etc.
09. Physiography of the District.
10. Rainfall: month-wise
11. Geology and Mineral Wealth.
12. **Drainage System with description of main rivers.**

S.N.	NAME OF RIVER	AREA DRAINED (Sq. Km)	% AREA DRAINED

13.Salient Features of Important Rivers and Streams:

S.N.	Name of the River / Stream	Total Length in the District (in Km)	Place of origin	Altitude at Origin

14.Methodology Adopted for Calculating of Mineral Potential

The mineral potential is calculated based on field investigation and geology of the catchment area of the river/ streams. As per the policy of the State and location, depth of minable mineral is defined. The area for removal of mineral in a river or stream can be decided depending on geo-morphology and other factors, it can be 50% to 60% of the area of a particular river/stream, e.g. in Himachal Pradesh mineral constituents like boulders, river born bajari, sand up to a depth of one meter are considered as resource mineral. Other constituents like clay and silt are excluded as waste while calculating the mineral potential of particular river/ stream.

The specific gravity of each mineral constituent is different. While calculating the mineral potential, the average specific gravity is taken as 2.25. The percent of mineral constituent like boulder, river bajari, sand also varies for different river and streams. While calculating the mineral potential the percentage of each mineral constituent is taken as, Boulders 35-40%, Bajari – 30-35%, Sand 25-30% and 5-10% for silt and clay.

The quantum of deposition varies from stream to stream depending upon factors like catchment lithology, discharge, river profile and geomorphology of the river course. There are certain geomorphological features developed in the river beds such as channel bar, point bar etc. where annual deposition is more even two to three meters.



For illustration one example of Yamuna River in Sirmaour district of Himachal Pradesh is given below:

Portion of the River / Stream Recommended for Mineral Concession	Length of area recommended for mineral concession (in kilometer)	Average width of area recommended for mineral concession (in meters)	Area recommended for mineral concession (in square meter)	Mineable mineral potential (in metric tonne) (60% of total mineral potential)
From Downstream of confluence with Tons River to Behral near Haryana and Uttar Pradesh border	31	478	14818000	16803612

Present Status of Mining

This gives the detail of mining leases already in operation in this stretch, area and production in last three years from these leases is calculated.

Mineral Potential is calculated in following way:

Mineral Potential

Boulder (MT)	Bajari (MT)	Sand (MT)	Total Mineable Mineral Potential (MT)
5601204	6801462	4400946	16803612

Annual Deposition

336072	408088	264057	1008217
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Recommendation:

From the above it is clear that about 16803612 metric tonnes of mineral is available up to depth of one meter in the river bed of Yamuna in Sirmour district.

The annual deposition is 1008217 MT.

The average annual production is 80000 MT.

So, 16723612 MT of mineral can be safely removed.

It is recommended that mineral concession can be granted in the right bank of the river bed from confluence of river with Tons to Behral in Haryana and U.P border.

In similar manner it should be calculated for each river and stream in the district and compiled in following format:

S.N.	River/ Stream	Portion of the river / stream recommended for mineral concession	Length of the recommended area for mineral concession (in kilometer)	Average width of the recommended area for mineral concession (in meters)	Area recommended for mineral concession (in sq.mtrs.)	Mineable mineral potential (in metric tonne) (60% of total mineral potential)
Total for the District						

About the size of the mining leases for the aggregates it should be borne in mind that a river / stream can be divided into two zones, which in-turn is dynamic i.e. the zone of erosion and zone of deposition. These zones of deposition and erosion are extended in different patches in the river.

Any mining lease granted in larger tract can cover both the zones, and mining activity in zone of erosion can further aggravate the problem of erosion and as such the mining activity can be allowed only in the zone of the deposition. The mining leases of larger areas in rivers are neither in interest of environment nor in the interest of mineral conservation.

In Himalayan states the rivers and wasteland has been mostly classed as forest land and mining on that requires diversion of forest land and payment of compensatory afforestation and NPV etc. The land in river beds in hilly tracts and many small rivers at any one site seldom exceed 5 hectare, so not allowing sand mining leases less than 5 hectare on river beds further aggravates the situation. So the size of mining lease for river sand mining should be determined by the State as per the local situation.



14. MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. In-Stream Mining Recommendations:

a) Permit Mining Volume Based on Measured Annual Replenishment

In the first year following adoption of the management plan, a volume equal to the estimated annual replenishment could be extracted from the reach of channel. Replenishment (up to the elevation of the selected channel configuration) would need to occur before subsequent extraction could take place. The concept of annual replenishment accounts for the episodic nature of sediment transport. For example, during wet periods with high stream flows, and a high contribution of sediment from hill slopes and tributaries, monitoring data would show that sand and gravel bars are replenished quickly. During drought periods with low stream flow, and little sediment supply or transport, monitoring data would likely show that bars were replenished at a slower rate. The use of monitoring data is essential in measuring when actual replenishment occurs. The use of the concept of annual replenishment protects long-term channel stability as well as aquatic and riparian habitat by extracting a volume sustainable by watershed processes.

b) Establish an Absolute Elevation below Which No Extraction May Occur

(Minimum Enveloped Level or Redline).

The absolute elevation below which no mining could occur or “redline” would be surveyed on a site-specific basis in order to avoid impacts to structures such as bridges and to avoid vegetation impacts associated with down-cutting due to excessive removal of sediment. An extraction site can be determined after setting the deposition level at 1 m above natural channel thalweg elevation, as determined by the survey approved by mine plan approving authority.

c) Limit In-stream Extraction Methods to Bar Skimming

If mining is limited to the downstream end of the bar with a riparian buffer on both the channel and hill slope (or floodplain) side, bar skimming would minimise impacts. Other methods such as excavation of trenches or pools in the low flow channel lower the local base level, and maximise upstream (head cutting and incision) and downstream (widening and braiding) impacts. In addition, direct disturbance of the substrate in the low flow channel should be avoided. Trenching on bars may be beneficial in the future if the river becomes severely aggraded, flat, shallow and braided. Trenching of bars may initially impact a smaller area of riparian habitat than skimming - as a result of excavating deeper rather than shallow skimming of a large area. However, over the long-term, the upstream and downstream effects of a trench on the bar or in the channel may offset any short-term benefit derived from this method.

d) Extract Sand and Gravel from the Downstream Portion of the Bar:

Retaining the upstream one to two thirds of the bar and riparian vegetation while excavating from the downstream third of the bar is accepted as a method to promote channel stability and protect the narrow width of the low flow channel necessary for fish. Sand and gravel would be re-deposited in the excavated downstream one to two thirds of the bar (or downstream of the widest point of the bar) where an eddy would form during sediment transporting flows. In contrast, if excavation occurs on the entire bar after removing existing riparian vegetation, there is a greater potential for widening and braiding of the low flow channel.

e) Concentrate Activities to Minimise Disturbance:

In-stream extraction activities should be concentrated or localised to a few bars rather than spread out over many bars. This localisation of extraction will minimise the area of disturbance of upstream and downstream effects. Skimming decreases habitat and species diversity - these effects should not be expanded over a large portion of the area.

f) Review Cumulative Effects of Sand and Gravel Extraction:

The cumulative impact of all mining proposals should be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if cumulative riverine effects or effects to the estuary are likely.



g) Maintain Flood Capacity:

Flood capacity in the river should be maintained in areas where there are significant flood hazards to existing structures or infrastructure.

h) Establish a Long-term Monitoring Program:

Monitoring of changes in bed elevation and channel morphology, and aquatic and riparian habitat upstream and downstream of the extraction would identify any impacts of sand and gravel extraction to biologic resources. Long-term data collected over a period of decades as sand and gravel extraction occurs will provide data to use in determining trends.

i) Minimise Activities That Release Fine Sediment to the River:

No washing, crushing, screening, stockpiling, or plant operations should occur at or below the streams "average high water elevation," or the dominant discharge. These and similar activities have the potential to release fine sediments into the stream, providing habitat conditions harmful to local fish.

j) Retain Vegetation Buffer at Edge of Water and Against River Bank:

Riparian vegetation performs several functions essential to the proper maintenance of geomorphic and biological processes in rivers. It shields river banks and bars from erosion. Additionally, riparian vegetation, including roots and downed trees, serves as cover for fish, provides food source, works as a filter against sediment inputs, and aids in nutrient cycling. More broadly, the riparian zone is necessary to the integrity of the ecosystem providing habitat for invertebrates, birds and other wildlife.

k) The in-stream mining should only be allowed during the dry season.

No in-stream mining should be permitted during rainy season (July, August and September).

l) An Annual Status and Trends Report:

This report should review permitted extraction quantities in light of results of the monitoring program, or as improved estimates of replenishment become available. The report should document changes in bed elevation, channel morphology, and aquatic and riparian habitat. The report should also include a record of extraction volumes permitted, and excavation location. Finally, recommendations for reclamation, if needed should be documented.

2. Off-Channel or Floodplain Extraction Recommendations

a) Floodplain Extraction should be set back from the Main Channel

In a dynamic alluvial system, it is not uncommon for meanders to migrate across a floodplain. In areas where sand and gravel occurs on floodplains or terraces, there is a potential for the river channel to migrate toward the pit. If the river erodes through the area left between the excavated pit and the river, there is a potential for "river capture," a situation where the low flow channel is diverted through the pit. In order to avoid river capture, excavation pits should set back from the river to provide a buffer, and should be designed to withstand the 100-year flood (100-year ARI). Adequate buffer widths and reduced pit slope gradients are preferred over engineered structures which require maintenance in perpetuity. Hydraulic, geomorphic, and geotechnical studies should be conducted prior to design and construction of the pit and bund. In addition to river capture, extraction pits create the possibility of stranding fish.

b) The maximum depth of Floodplain Extraction should remain above the Channel Thalweg

Floodplain pits should not be excavated below the elevation of the thalweg in the adjacent channel. This will minimise the impacts of potential river capture by limiting the potential for head cutting and the potential of the pit to trap sediment. A shallow excavation (above the water table) would provide a depression that would fill with water part of the year, and develop seasonal wetland habitat. An excavation below the water table would provide deep water habitat.



c) Side Slopes of Floodplain Excavation Should Range from 3:1 to 10:1

Side slopes of a floodplain pit should be graded to a slope that ranges from 3:1 to 10:1. This will allow for a range of vegetation from wetland to upland. Steep side slopes excavated in floodplain pits on other systems have not been successfully reclaimed, since it is difficult for vegetation to become stabilised. Terrace pits should be designed with a large percentage of edge habitat with a low gradient which will naturally sustain vegetation at a variety of water levels.

d) Place Stockpiled Topsoil above the 25-year Return Period or ARI Level

Stockpiled topsoil can introduce a large supply of fines to the river during a flood event and degrade fish habitat. Storage above the 25-year flood (25-year ARI) inundation level is sufficient to minimise this risk.

e) Floodplain Pits Should Be Restored to Wetland Habitat or Reclaimed for Agriculture

The key to successful restoration or reclamation is to conserve or import adequate material to re-fill the pit, while ensuring that pit margins are graded to allow for development of significant wetland and emergent vegetation.

f) Establish a Long-term Monitoring Program

A long-term monitoring program should provide data illustrating any impacts to river stability, groundwater, fisheries, and riparian vegetation. The monitoring program should assess the success of any reclamation or restoration attempted.

g) An Annual Status and Trends Report

The status and trends report described previously should include a section on the hydrologic and biologic components of floodplain pit reclamation.

Extraction Methods

The important methods of sand and gravel mining operations are as below:

a) Bar scalping or skimming is extraction of sand and gravel from the surface of bars. This method generally requires that surface irregularities be smoothed out and that the extracted material be limited to what could be taken above an imaginary line sloping upwards and away from the water from a specified level above the river's water surface at the time of extraction (typically 0.3 - 0.6 m (1-2 ft)). Bar scalping is commonly repeated year after year. To maintain the hydraulic control provided to upstream by the riffle head, the preferred method of bar scalping is now generally to leave the top one-third (approximately) of the bar undisturbed, mining only from the downstream two-thirds.

b) Dry-Pit Channel Mining

Dry-pit channel mines are pits excavated within the active channel on dry intermittent or ephemeral stream beds. Dry pits are often left with abrupt upstream margins, from which head cuts are likely to propagate upstream.

c) Wet-Pit Channel Mining

Wet-pit mining involves excavation of a pit in the active channel below the surface water in a perennial stream or below the alluvial groundwater table.

d) Bar Excavation

A pit is excavated at the downstream end of the bar as a source of aggregate and as a site to trap sand and gravel. Upon completion, the pit may be connected to the channel at its downstream end to provide side channel habitat.

e) In-stream Gravel Traps

f) Channel-wide In-Stream Mining

In rivers with a highly variable flow regime, sand and gravel are commonly extracted across the entire active channel during the dry season. The bed is evened out and uniformly (or nearly so) lowered.

Reclamation Plans

Reclamation plans should include:

- A baseline survey consisting of existing condition cross-section data: Cross-sections must be surveyed between two documented endpoints set back from the top of bank, and elevations should be referenced to bench mark;
- The proposed mining cross-section data should be plotted over the baseline data to illustrate the vertical extent of the proposed excavation;
- The cross-section of the replenished bar should be the same as the baseline data. This illustrates that the bar elevation after the bar is replenished will be the same as the bar before extraction;
- A planimetric map showing the aerial extent of the excavation and extent of the riparian buffers;
- A planting plan developed by a plant ecologist familiar with the flora of the river for any areas such as roads that need to be restored;
- A monitoring plan: The appropriate reclamation plans can turn in-stream and floodplain sand and gravel mining operations into something perceived by the public as desirable.

15. MARINE SAND MINING AND IMPACT ON MARINE BIODIVERSITY

The mining of marine aggregates is increasing significantly. Marine sand mining has had an impact on seabed flora and fauna. Dredging and extraction of aggregates from the benthic (sea bottom) zone destroys organisms, habitats and ecosystems and deeply affects the composition of biodiversity, usually leading to a net decline in faunal biomass and abundance or a shift in species composition. Aggregate particles that are too fine to be used are rejected by dredging boats, releasing vast dust plumes and changing water turbidity, resulting in major changes to aquatic and riparian habitats over large areas.

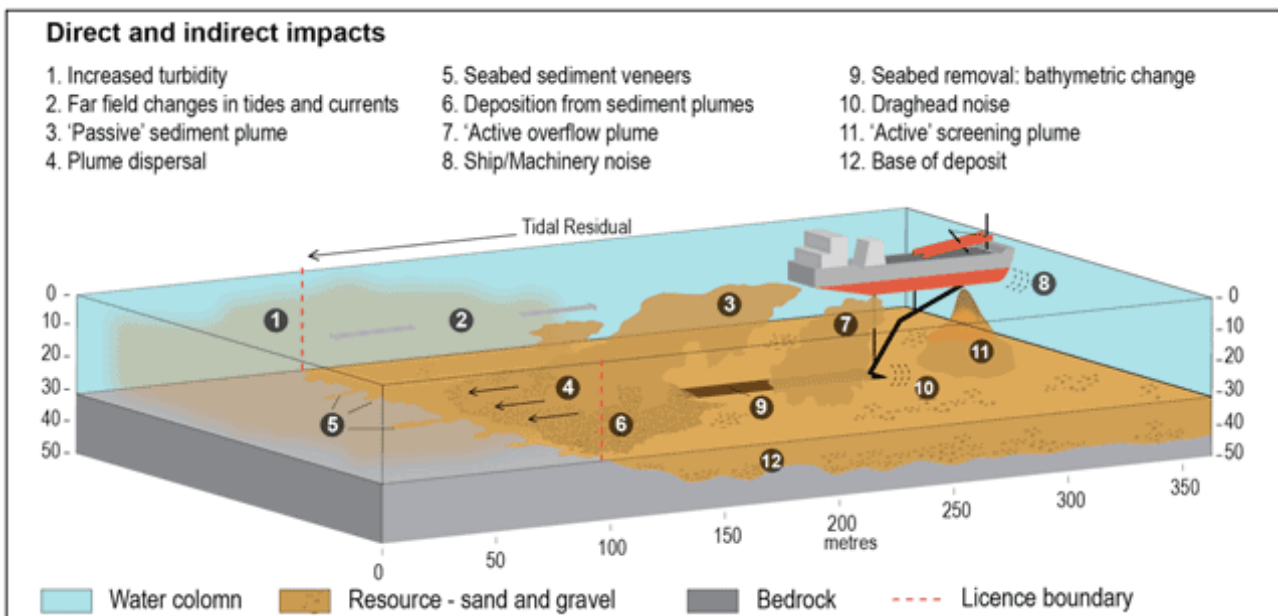


Figure: Direct and indirect consequences of aggregates dredging on the marine environment.



16. REDUCING CONSUMPTION OF SAND

Because sand is still very cheap – sand itself is freely accessible; only extraction and transportation costs need to be covered – there is little or no incentive to induce a change in our consumption. Recycled building and quarry dust material can be a substitute for sand. Despite the very high value of minerals found in the sand, it is mostly used for concrete or is buried under highways. Concrete rubble should be recycled to avoid using aggregates, at least for low-quality uses.

Substitutes for sand are available. Quarry dust could be used to replace sand in general concrete structures. The replacement of sand by up to 40% of incinerator ash exhibits higher compressive strength than regular cement mortars. Some desert sand can be used if mixed with other material. There are alternatives for building houses, including wood, straw and recycled material. However, the current building industry is geared toward concrete know-how and equipment.

Training of architects and engineers, new laws and regulations, and positive incentives are needed to initiate a shift for lowering our dependency on sand. Renewable and recycled materials need to be targeted for building houses and roads. Use of Manufactured Sand (M-Sand) also needs to be promoted.

Alternative sources of sand and gravel, which accumulate at the bottom of dams, can also be targeted. Their use would address the problem of these aggregates accumulating which leads to a reduced capacity of dams to store water and could result in the dams' water intakes being blocked. Dams regularly release large amounts of water to flush out aggregates.

The important standard setting bodies in India are taking steps to promote the usage of alternatives to sand and gravel. Bureau of Indian Standards, the National Standards Body of the country, considering the scarcity of sand and coarse aggregates from natural sources, has evolved number of alternatives which are ultimately aimed at conservation of natural resources apart from promoting use of various waste materials without compromising in quality.

These measures include permitting in the Concrete Code (IS 456) as also in the National Building Code of India, the use of slag - a waste from steel industry, fly ash - a waste from thermal power plants, crushed over-burnt bricks and tiles - waste from clay brick and tile industry, in plain cement concrete as an alternative to sand/natural aggregate, subject to fulfilling the requirements of the Code. This Code, further, encourages use of fly ash and ground granulated blast furnace slag as part replacement of ordinary Portland cement in plain as well as reinforced cement concrete.

The Indian Standard on concrete mix design (IS 10262) has been upgraded to include guidance and examples of designing concrete mixes using fly ash and slag. Provisions for compliance for requisite quality of concrete made using fly ash and slag have been duly covered for the manufacturers of ready-mixed concrete in the Indian Standard Code of practice for RMC (IS 4926).

BIS has also formulated an Indian Standard Specification for artificial lightweight aggregates covering manufactured aggregates, such as foamed blast furnace slag, bloated clay aggregate, sintered fly ash aggregate and cinder aggregate (IS 9142).

A series of Indian Standards has also been formulated on various precast concrete products such as solid and hollow concrete blocks, light weight concrete blocks, autoclaved aerated concrete blocks, preformed foam concrete blocks, partial prefabricated concrete flooring and roofing units, concrete pipes, etc, all permitting use of fly ash and slag.



17. THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE HEADED BY SECRETARY, MoEF – 2010

A Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest was set up on the subject in 2010. The Committee considered this subject in detail and prepared a report. The important parts of the report are as follows:

Definition of Minor Mineral:

The term 'minor mineral' is defined in clause (e) of Section 3 of MMDR Act, 1957: '3 (e) "minor minerals" means building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand other than sand used for prescribed purposes and any other material which the Central Government may, by Notification in the Gazette of India declare to be a minor mineral;'

The term 'ordinary sand' used in clause (e) of Section 3 of the MMDR Act, 1957 has been further clarified in rule 70 of the MCR, 1960 as:

Sand shall not be treated as a minor mineral, when used for any of the following purposes _

- (i) Purposes of refractory and manufacture of ceramic,
- (ii) Metallurgical purposes,
- (iii) Optical purposes,
- (iv) Purposes of stowing in coal mines,
- (v) For manufacture of silvicate cement,
- (vi) Manufacture of sodium silicate and for
- (vii) Manufacture of pottery and glass.

Additionally, the Central Government has declared the following minerals as minor minerals:

SN	Minor Minerals	SN	Minor Minerals	SN	Minor Minerals
i)	Boulder	vi)	Brick-earth	xi)	Slate and shale when used for building material
ii)	Shingle	vii)	Fuller's earth	xii)	Marble
iii)	Chalcedony pebbles used for ball mill purposes only	viii)	Bentonite	xiii)	Stone used for making household utensils
iv)	Lime shell, kankar and limestone used in kilns for manufacture of lime used as building material	ix)	Road metal	xiv)	Quartzite and sandstone when used for purposes of building or for making road metal and household utensils
v)	Murram	x)	Reh-matti	xv)	Saltpetre, and
xvi)	Ordinary earth (Used for filling or leveling purposes in construction or embankments, roads, railways building).				

It may thus be observed that minerals have been classified into major and minor minerals based on their end use rather than level of production, level of mechanization, export and import etc. There do exist some minor mineral mines of silica sand and limestone where the scale of mechanization and level of production is much higher than those of industrial mineral mines. Further, in terms of the economic cost and revenue, it has been estimated that the total value of minor minerals constitutes about 10% of the total value of mineral production whereas the value of non-metallic minerals comprises only 3%. It is, therefore, evident that the operations of mines of minor minerals need to be subject to some regulatory parameters as that of mines of major minerals. Further, unlike India there does not exist such system in any other country where minerals are classified as major and minor based on end usage. Thus, there is a need to re-look at the definition of 'minor minerals' per se. It is, therefore, recommended that Ministry of Mines along with Indian Bureau of Mines, in consultation with the State Governments may re-examine the classification of minerals into major and minor categories so that the regulatory aspects and environment mitigation measures are appropriately integrated for ensuring sustainable and scientific mining with least impacts on environment.



Size of the Mine Lease:

Area for grant of mine lease varies from State to State. Maximum area which can be held under one or more mine lease is 2590 ha or 25.90 sq.miles in Jammu and Kashmir. Rajasthan prescribed a minimum limit of 1 ha for a lease. Maximum area prescribed for permit is 50x50 m. In most of the States area of permit is not specified in the rules.

It has recently been observed by Punjab and Haryana High Court in its order dated 15.5.2009 that State Government are apparently granting short term permits by dividing the mining area into small zones in effect to avoid environmental norms. There is, thus a need to bring uniformity in the extent of area to be granted for mine lease so as to ensure that eco- friendly scientific mining practices can be adopted. It is recommended that the minimum size of mine lease should be 5 ha. Further, preparation of comprehensive mine plan for contiguous stretches of mineral deposits by the respective State Governments may also be encouraged. This may suitably be incorporated in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 by Ministry of Mines.

Period of Mine Lease:

The period of lease varies from State to State depending on type of concessions, minerals and its end use. The minimum lease period is one year and maximum 30 years. Minerals like granite where huge investments are required, a period of 20 years is generally given with the provisions of renewal. Permits are generally granted for short periods which vary from one month to a maximum one year. In States like Haryana, minor mineral leases are auctioned for a particular time period. Mining is considered to be capital intensive industry and considerable time is lost for developing the mine before it attains the status of fully developed mine. If the tenure of the mine lease is short, it would encourage the lessee to concentrate more on rapid exploitation of mineral without really undertaking adequate measures for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out area, posing thereby a serious threat to the environment and health of the workers and public at large. There is thus, a need to bring uniformity in the period of lease. It is recommended that a minimum period of mine lease should be 5 years, so that eco- friendly scientific and sustainable mining practices are adopted. However, under exceptional circumstances arising due to judicial interventions, short term mining leases / contracts could be granted to the State Agencies to meet the situation arising there from.

Cluster of Mine Approach for Small Sized Mines:

Considering the nature of occurrence of minor mineral, economic condition of the lessee and the likely difficulties to be faced by Regulatory Authorities in monitoring the environmental impacts and implementation of necessary mitigation measures, it may be desirable to adopt cluster approach in case of smaller mine leases being operated presently. Further, these clusters need be provided with processing/crusher zones for forward integration and minimizing excessive pressure on road infrastructure. The respective State Governments / Mine Owners Associations may facilitate implementation of Environment Management Plans in such cluster of mines.

Requirement of Mine Plan for Minor Minerals:

At present, most of the State Governments have not made it mandatory for preparation of mining plan in respect of minor minerals. In some States like Rajasthan, eco- friendly mining plans are prepared, which are approved by the State Mining Department. The eco- friendly mining plans so prepared, though conceptually welcome, are observed to be deficient and need to be made comprehensive in a manner as is being done for major minerals. Besides, the aspects of reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas, progressive mine closure plan, as in vogue for major minerals could be introduced for minor minerals as well.

It is recommended that provision for preparation and approval of mine plan, as in the case of major minerals may appropriately be provided in the Rules governing the mining of minor minerals by the respective State Governments. These should specifically include the provision for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out area, progressive mine closure plan and post mine land use.

**Creation of Separate Corpus for Reclamation / Rehabilitation of Mines of Minor Minerals:**

Mining of minor minerals, in our country, is by and large unorganized sector and is practiced in haphazard and unscientific manner. At times, the size of the leasehold is also too small to address the issue of reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas. It may, therefore, be desirable that before the concept of mine closure plan for minor minerals is adopted, the existing abandoned mines may be reclaimed and rehabilitated with the involvement of the State Government. There is thus, a need to create a separate corpus, which may be utilized for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas. The respective State Governments may work out a suitable mechanism for creation of such corpus on the 'polluter pays' principle. An organizational structure may also need to be created for undertaking and monitoring these activities.

Depth of Mining:

Mining of minerals, whether major or minor have a direct bearing on the hydrological regime of the area. Besides, affecting the availability of water as a resource, it also affects the quality of water through direct run of going into the surface water bodies and infiltration / leaching into groundwater. Further, groundwater withdrawal, dewatering of water from mine pit and diversion of surface water may cause surface and sub-surface hydrologic systems to dry up. An ideal situation would require that quarrying should be restricted to unsaturated zone only above the phreatic water table and should not intersect the groundwater table at any point of time. However, from the point of view of mineral conservation, it may not be desirable to impose blanket ban on mining operation below groundwater table. It is, therefore, recommended that detailed hydro-geological report should be prepared in respect of any mining operation for minor minerals to be undertaken below groundwater table. Based on the findings of the study so undertaken and the comments/recommendations of Central Ground Water Authority/ State Ground Water Board, a decision regarding restriction on depth of mining for any area should be taken on case to case basis.

Uniform Minor Mineral Concession Rules:

The economic value of the minor minerals excavated in the country is estimated to contribute to about 9% of the total value of the minerals whereas the non-metallic minerals contribute to about 2.8%. Keeping in view the large extent of mining of minor minerals and its significant potential to adversely affect the environment, it is recommended that Model Mineral Concession rules may be framed for minor minerals as well and the minor minerals may be subjected to a simpler regulatory regime, which is, however, similar to major minerals regime.

River Bed Mining:

1. Environment damage being caused by unregulated river bed mining of sand, bajri and boulders is attracting considerable attention including in the courts. The following recommendations are therefore made for the river bed mining.
 - (a) In the case of mining leases for riverbed sand mining, specific river stretches should be identified and mining permits/lease should be granted stretch wise, so that the requisite safeguard measures are duly implemented and are effectively monitored by the respective Regulatory Authorities.
 - (b) The depth of mining may be restricted to 3m / water level, whichever is less.
 - (c) For carrying out mining in proximity to any bridge and / or embankment, appropriate safety zone should be worked out on case to case basis, taking into account the structural parameters, locational aspects, flow rate etc. and no mining should be carried out in the safety zone so worked out.

Conclusion:

Mining of minor minerals, though individually, because of smaller size of mine leases is perceived to have lesser impact as compared to mining of major minerals. However, the activity as a whole is seen to have significant adverse impacts on environment. It is, therefore, necessary that the mining of minor minerals is subjected to simpler but strict regulatory regime and carried out only under an approved framework of mining plan, which should provide for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mined out areas. Further, while granting mining leases by the respective State Governments "location of any eco-fragile zone (s) within the impact



zone of the proposed mining area, the linked Rules/Notifications governing such zones and the judicial pronouncements, if any, need be duly noted. The Union Ministry of Mines along with Indian Bureau of Mines and respective State Governments should therefore make necessary provisions in this regard under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and adopt model guidelines to be followed by all States (emphasis supplied)".

18. REGIME OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS RELATING TO MINING OF MINOR MINERALS

The Entry 54 of List 1 in Schedule VII to the Constitution of India is the entry which empowers the Parliament in respect of 'Regulation of Mines and Minerals Development. Entry 23 of List 2 of the same Schedule, read with Article 246 (3) of the Constitution confers legislative powers on the State Legislature in respect of Regulation of Mines and Mineral Development, but, this power is subject to the provisions of List 1 with respect to the regulation and development under the control of the Union. The Parliament, with the object to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation of labour and safety in mines enacted the Mines Act, 1952. Section 2 (JJ) of the Mines Act, 1952 defines "minerals" to mean, all substances which can be obtained from the earth by mining, digging, drilling, dredging, hydraulic, quarrying or by any other operation and includes mineral oils (which, in turn, include natural gas and petroleum). On 1st June, 1958, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was promulgated. This Act provides, inter alia, for general restrictions on undertaking prospecting and mining operations, the procedure for obtaining prospecting licenses or mining leases in respect of the land in which the minerals vests in the Government, the rule making power for regulating the grant of prospecting licenses and mining leases, special powers of Central Government to undertake prospecting or mining operations in certain cases, and for development of minerals.

The protection of natural environment is one of the fundamental duties of every citizen under Article 51-A of the Constitution of India. Article 48-A of the Constitution, obliged the State to endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country. The Environment (Protection) Act and Rules, 1986 were enacted and came into force on 19th November, 1986. The object of this Act is to provide for the protection and improvement of environment and for matters connected therewith. Under provisions of the Act and Rules of 1986, MoEFCC has issued various Notifications regulating the mining of minor minerals, specifically stating the procedures that were required to be complied by persons intending to carry on such mining activity and for the authorities to regulate the same.

Prior to 1994, there was no specific regime in place in relation to mining activity being carried out. The Notification issued by MoEF on 27th January, 1994, in exercise of the powers vested in it under Sub-Rule 3 of Rule 5 of the Rules of 1986 and Sub Section (1) and Clause (v) of Sub-Section (2) of Section 3 of the Act of 1986, prescribed the requirement and procedure for seeking Environmental Clearance for the projects listed in Schedule I. Schedule I of this Notification did not list mining projects of minor minerals. On the contrary, the projects covered under S. No. 20 of Schedule I of this Notification were only "mining projects (major mineral) with leases more than 5 hectares".

It provided for the constitution of Expert Committees and preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Report which was to be evaluated and assessed by the Impact Assessment Agency. In exercise of its statutory powers afore-indicated, the Central Government on 14th September, 2006, issued a Notification, i.e., 'Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006'. In terms of this Notification, the projects as stated in the Schedule to this Notification required prior Environmental Clearance as per the procedure. The projects have been categorised into two kinds, i.e., Category 'A' and Category 'B' under Clause 2 of the Notification. Projects under Category 'A' were required to take prior Environmental Clearance by MoEFCC. For Category 'B' projects, Environmental Clearance was to be given by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

The mining of minerals (both major and minor) were brought under the ambit of EIA Notification, 2006. The mine lease area of more than equal to 50 ha was Category 'A' and mine lease area less than 50 ha. and more than equal to 5 ha was category 'B' project. Mine lease area of less than 5 ha (both major and minor) was kept out of EIA Notification purview.



The Notification of 2006 came to be amended by Notification dated 1st December, 2009. It included the category of non-coal mine and coal mine lease and provided that non-coal mine lease of area more than equal to 5 ha and less than 50 ha will be category 'B' and mine lease area more than equal to 50 ha will be category 'A'. Similarly, mine lease area of more than equal to 5 ha and less than 150 ha for coal mine lease will be category 'B' and mine lease area of coal mine more than 150 ha will be category 'A'. Here again mining lease area of less than 5 ha (both coal and non-coal mine) was kept out of EIA Notification purview.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its order dated 27.2.2012 in I.A. No.12-13 of 2011 in SLP (C) No.19628-19629 of 2009 titled Deepak Kumar etc. V/s State of Haryana & Ors. has inter alia ordered *"We, in the meanwhile, order that leases of minor mineral including their renewal for an area of less than five hectares be granted by the States/Union Territories only after getting environmental clearance from the MoEF."*

Hon'ble Apex Court in Deepak Kumar's case (supra) extensively examined the environmental concerns, in the context of mining of minor minerals, considering its impact on the environment. The Apex Court observed that Extraction of alluvial material from within or near a streambed has a direct impact on the stream's physical habitat characteristics. These characteristics include bed elevation, substrate composition and stability, in-stream roughness elements, depth, velocity, turbidity, sediment transport, stream discharge and temperature. Altering these habitat characteristics can have deleterious impacts on both in-stream biota and the associated riparian habitat. The demand for sand continues to increase day by day as building and construction of new infrastructures and expansion of existing ones is continuous thereby placing immense pressure on the supply of the sand resource and hence mining activities are going on legally and illegally without any restrictions. Lack of proper planning and sand management cause disturbance of marine ecosystem and also upset the ability of natural marine processes to replenish the sand. Quarrying, mining and removal of sand from in-stream and upstream of several rivers, which may have serious environmental impact on ephemeral, seasonal and perennial rivers and river beds and sand extraction may have an adverse effect on bio-diversity as well. Further it may also lead to bed degradation and sedimentation having a negative effect on the aquatic life.

Apex Court observed that without conducting any study on the possible environmental impact on/in the river beds and else-where the auction notices have been issued. Hon'ble Apex Court observed that *"We are of the considered view that when we are faced with a situation where extraction of alluvial material within or near a river bed has an impact on the rivers physical habitat characteristics, like river stability, flood risk, environmental degradation, loss of habitat, decline in biodiversity, it is not an answer to say that the extraction is in blocks of less than 5 hectares, separated by 1 kilo meter, because their collective impact may be significant, hence the necessity of a proper environmental assessment plan"*.

In order to ensure compliance of the aforesaid order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, MoEF issued an OM No.L-11011/47/2011-IA.II(M) dated 18.05.2012 stating inter alia that all mining projects of minor minerals including their renewal, irrespective of the size of the lease would henceforth require prior EC and that the projects of minor minerals with lease area less than 5 ha would be treated as Category "B" as defined in EIA Notification, 2006 and will be considered by the respective State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) notified by MoEF and following the procedure prescribed under the EIA Notification, 2006.

On 24th June, 2013, MoEF issued another Office Memorandum stating guidelines for consideration of proposals for grant of Environmental Clearance under the Notification of 2006 for mining of 'brick earth' and 'ordinary earth' having lease area of less than 5 hectares. Referring to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Deepak Kumar (supra) and its Office Memorandum dated 18th May, 2012, it further considered that the 'brick kiln' manufacturers had stated that it was a small scale activity requiring that certain depth should be kept outside the purview of Environmental Clearance. Having considered various aspects, examining the recommendations of the Expert Committee, constituted by MoEF, finally it was directed as follows:

"(a) The activities of borrowing / excavation of 'brick earth' and ordinary earth', upto an area of less than 5 ha, may be categorized under 'B2' Category subject to the following guidelines in terms of the provisions under '7.I Stage(1)-Screening' of EIA Notification, 2006:

(i) The activity associated with borrowing/excavation of 'brick earth' and 'ordinary earth' for purpose of brick manufacturing, construction of roads, embankments etc. shall not involve blasting.



- (ii) The borrowing/excavation activity shall be restricted to a maximum depth of 2 m below general ground level at the site.
 - (iii) The borrowing/excavation activity shall be restricted to 2 m above the ground water table at the site.
 - (iv) The borrowing/excavation activity shall not alter the natural drainage pattern of the area.
 - (v) The borrowed/excavated pit shall be restored by the project proponent for useful purpose(s).
 - (vi) Appropriate fencing all around the borrowed/excavated pit shall be made to prevent any mishap.
 - (vii) Measures shall be taken to prevent dust emission by covering of borrowed/excavated earth during transportation.
 - (viii) Safeguards shall be adopted against health risks on account of breeding of vectors in the water bodies created due to borrowing/excavation of earth.
 - (ix) Workers / labourers shall be provided with facilities for drinking water and sanitation.
 - (x) A berm shall be left from the boundary of adjoining field having a width equal to at least half the depth of proposed excavation.
 - (xi) A minimum distance of 15 m from any civil structure shall be kept from the periphery of any excavation area.
2. (a) The concerned SEIAA while considering granting environmental clearance for such activity for brick earth / ordinary earth will prescribe the guidelines as stated at (i) to (xi) above and specify that the clearance so granted shall be liable to be cancelled in case of any violation of above guidelines.
- (b) Notwithstanding what has been stated at (a) above, the following will apply:
- (i) No borrowing of earth / excavation of 'brick earth' or 'ordinary earth' shall be permitted in case the area of borrowing/ excavation is within 1 km of boundary of national parks and wild life sanctuaries.
 - (ii) In case the area of borrowing / excavation is likely to result into a cluster situation i.e. if the periphery of one borrow area is less than 500 m from the periphery of another borrow area and the total borrow area equals or exceeds 5 ha, the activity shall become Category 'B 1' Project under the EIA Notification, 2006. In such a case, mining operations in any of the borrow areas in the cluster will be allowed only if the environmental clearance has been obtained in respect of the cluster. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority."

These directions which were specific only to 'brick earth' and 'ordinary earth' activities for areas less than 5 hectares, as decided to be categorised as 'B 2' Category projects, subject to the restrictions stated in the memorandum, provided that if the cluster area exceeded 5 hectares, then it would become Category 'B 1' and would not be treated as Category 'B 2' projects. The above Office Memorandum was not dealing with the issues of sand mining or any other minor mineral activity except 'brick earth' and 'ordinary earth'. Further, MoEF has issued an amendment to EIA Notification vide Notification S.O. 2731 (E) dated 9th September 2013 has amended the EIA Notification, 2006 for item 1 (a) as follows:

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1(a)	(i) Mining of minerals	<p>≥50 ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease</p> <p>>150 ha of mining lease area in respect of coal mine lease</p> <p>Asbestos mining irrespective of mining area</p>	<p>≤50 ha of mining lease area in respect of minor mineral mine lease; and</p> <p>≤50 ha >5 ha of mining lease area in respect of other non-coal mine lease</p> <p>≤150 ha >5 of mining lease area in respect of coal mine lease</p>	<p>General Conditions shall apply except for project or activity of less than 5 ha of mining lease area for minor minerals:</p> <p>Provided that the above exception shall not apply for project or activity if sum total of the mining lease area of the said project or activity and that of existing operating mines and mining projects which were accorded environment clearance and are located within 500 meters from the periphery of such project or activity equals or exceeds 5 ha.</p>

Note: (i) Prior environmental clearance is required at the stage of renewal of mine lease for which an application shall be made up to two years prior to the date due for renewal.



In this Notification a new category of minor mineral was introduced and it was provided that mining lease area of minor mineral less than 50 ha. will be category ‘B’ and will require EC. Accordingly the minor mineral mining projects having less than 5 hectare of lease area are required to be appraised by the SEIAA/SEAC of respective State for granting environment clearance. It was provided that the project or activity of less than 5 ha of mining lease area for minor minerals will be exempt from the General Conditions. Simultaneously the concept of cluster was introduced and it was provided that the exemption of applicability of General Conditions shall not apply for project or activity if the sum total of the mining lease area of the said project or activity and that of existing operating mines and mining projects which were accorded EC and are located within 500 m from the periphery of such project or activity equal or exceeds 5 ha.

An anomaly was created from this Notification dated 09.09.2013 that mining leases of major minerals (non-coal mine and coal mine) of area less than 5 ha. were still kept out of EIA.

MoEF, on 24th December, 2013, issued another Office Memorandum for consideration of proposals for grant of Environmental Clearance regarding categorisation of Category ‘B’ projects into Category ‘B (1)’ and ‘B (2)’. Mining of minor minerals had been separately dealt with in this Office Memorandum. This Office Memorandum stated that no river sand mining project with mining lease area of less than 5 hectares may be considered for grant of Environmental Clearance. Such area up to 25 hectares would be categorised as ‘B (2)’ and such projects were to be considered, subject to the stipulations stated therein. This Office Memorandum stated that no Environmental Clearance would be granted for extraction of minor minerals from any riverbed where the area is less than 5 hectares. Sand mining, in area other than riverbeds, would be permitted, only if the Project Proponent takes Environmental Clearance.

The Ministry vide Notification No. S.O. 1599 (E) dated 25.06.2014 reduced the area of 10 kilo meter to 5 kilo meters for applicability of General Conditions increasing the delegation to States by taking out projects located in 5 to 10 kilo meter of interstate boundary, CEPI, and, PAs from category ‘A’.

The anomaly created by the Notification dated 09.09.2013 was corrected vide Notification No. S.O. 2601 (E) dated 7th October 2014, and category of minor mineral was deleted and mining leases were again classed as non-coal mine and coal mine and mining lease area of less than 50 ha was made category ‘B’ for non-coal mine and mine lease area of less than equal to 150 ha for coal mine was made category ‘B’. The mine lease area of less than 5 ha was exempt from the applicability of General Conditions and cluster concept of Notification dated 09.09.2013 was retained.

Notification S.O. 2601 (E) dated 7th October 2014 provides as follows:

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1(a)	(i) Mining of minerals	<p>≥50 ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease</p> <p>>150 ha of mining lease area in respect of coal mine lease</p> <p>Asbestos mining irrespective of mining area</p>	<p><50 ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease</p> <p>≤150 ha of mining lease area in respect of coal mine lease</p>	<p>General Conditions shall apply except for project or activity of less than 5 ha of mining lease area:</p> <p>Provided that the above exception shall not apply for project or activity if sum total of the mining lease area of the said project or activity and that of existing operating mines and mining projects which were accorded environment clearance and are located within 500 meters from the periphery of such project or activity equals or exceeds 5 ha.</p>

The NGT vide order dated 13.01.2015 (O.A. No. 123 of 2014 and M.A. No. 419 of 2014) has declared the Notification dated 09.09.2013 as invalid, inoperative and quashed it. The above order has also quashed the paragraph 4 (b) (i) of O.M. dated 24th June 2013 which provided that “No borrowing of earth / excavation of ‘brick earth’ or ‘ordinary earth’ shall be permitted in case the area of borrowing / excavation is within 1 km of boundary of national parks and wild life sanctuary.” Though this provision was taken from the observation of Hon’ble Supreme Court in W.P. No. 435 of 2012 (Goa Foundation Vs. Union of India) and order dated 04.08.2006 of Supreme Court in *T.N. Godavarma Thirumulpad v. Union of India & Ors.* Supreme Court has taken a view that 1 km. from the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries would be a safety zone, subject to the orders that may be made in IA No.1000 regarding Jamua Ramgarh Sanctuary and the State will



not grant any Temporary Working Permit (TWP) in these safety zones comprising 1 km. from the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries. Similarly the proviso at paragraph 2 (iii) of O.M. dated 24.12.2013 which says that “No river sand mining project, with mine lease area less than 5 ha, may be considered for granting EC” has been quashed. This condition was taken from the recommendations of the Committee headed by the Secretary, MoEF constituted in 2010. The above proviso were quashed on the ground that as EIA Notification places no such restriction, so same cannot be imposed by an executive order and many hill States find it very difficult to get an area equal to or more than 5 ha. in riverbed. The information made available by the States also makes it clear that majority of the mining leases of sand are of area less than 5 hectares.

19. THE ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT OF MINING IN CLUSTER

In I.A. No. 12-13 of 2011 in SLP Nos. 729-731 / 2011, 21833 / 2009, 12498-499 / 2010, SLP (C) CC ... 16157 / 2011 & CC 18235 / 2011 (Deepak Kumar and Ors. Vs. State of Haryana and Ors. etc.) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 27.02.2012 on the subject of cluster has quoted the submission of affidavit dated 23.11.2011 of MOEFCC. It says that “The Ministry is of the opinion that where the mining area is homogeneous, physically proximate and on identifiable piece of land of 5 ha. or more, it should not be broken into smaller sizes to circumvent the EIA Notification, 2006 as the EIA Notification, 2006 is not applicable to the mining projects having lease area of less than 5 ha. The Report of Committee on Minor Minerals, under the Chairmanship of Secretary (E&F) with representatives of various state governments as members including the State of Haryana and Rajasthan recommended a minimum lease size of 5 ha for minor minerals for undertaking scientific mining for the purpose of integrating and addressing environmental concerns. Only in cases of isolated discontinued mineral deposits in less than 5 ha, such mining leases may be considered keeping in view the mineral conservation”.

The order further quotes that “Cluster of Mine Approach for Small Sized Mines: Considering the nature of occurrence of minor mineral, economic condition of the lessee and the likely difficulties to be faced by Regulatory Authorities in monitoring the environmental impacts and implementation of necessary mitigation measures, it may be desirable to adopt cluster approach in case of smaller mine leases being operated presently. Further these clusters need be provided with processing / crusher zones for forward integration and minimizing excessive pressure on road infrastructure. The respective State Governments / Mine Owners Association may facilitate implementation of Environment Management Plans in such cluster of mines.” The order has further quoted the letter dated 1.06.2010 written by the then Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change which says on the subject that “A cluster approach to mines should be taken in case of smaller mines leases operating currently”. The Hon'ble Court has ordered that “The State of Haryana and various other States have not so far implemented the above recommendations of the MoEF or the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Mines before issuing auction notices granting short term permits by way of auction of minor mineral boulders gravel, sand etc., in the river beds and elsewhere of less than 5 hectares. We therefore, direct to all the States, Union Territories, MoEF and the Ministry of Mines to give effect to the recommendations made by MoEF in its report of March 2010 and the model Guidelines framed by the Ministry of Mines, within a period of six months from today and submit their compliance reports.”

“We in the meanwhile, order that leases of minor mineral including their renewal for an area of less than five hectares be granted by the States/ Union Territories only after getting environmental clearance from the MoEF.”

The Ministry vide O.M. No. L-11011/47/2011-IA.II (M) dated 18th May 2012 said that “In order to ensure compliance of the above referred order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.02.2012, it has now been decided that all mining projects of minor minerals including their renewal, irrespective of the size of the lease would henceforth require prior environment clearance. Mining projects with lease area up to less than 50 ha including projects of minor mineral with lease area less than 5 ha would be treated as Category ‘B’ as defined in EIA Notification, 2006 and will be considered by the respective SEIAAs notified by MoEF and following the procedure prescribed under EIA Notification, 2006.”



On the issue of cluster, the Notifications No. S.O. 2731 (E) dated 09.09.2013 and Notification No. S.O. No. 2601 (E) of 07.10.2014 were issued.

The above Notifications in Schedule at Item No. 1 (a) in Conditions mentions that “General Conditions shall apply except for projects or activity of less than 5 ha of mining lease area:

Provided that the above exception shall not apply for project or activity if the sum total of the mining lease area of the said project or activity and that of existing operating mines and mining projects which were accorded environment clearance and are located within 500 meters from the periphery of such projects or activity equals or exceeds 5 ha. The Office Memorandum No. J-13012/12/2013-IA-II (1) dated 24.12.2013 is about Guidelines for consideration of proposals for grant of environment clearance under Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006 and its amendments – regarding categorization of Category ‘B’ projects/ activities into Category ‘B1’ & ‘B2’.

The above O.M. besides categorizing the Category B into Category B1 & B2 also has directions on mining of brick earth / ordinary earth and river sand mining. **These provisions are as follows:**

“Mining of minor minerals:

As of now, mining projects of minor minerals with less than 50 hectare of mining lease areas are categorized as Category ‘B’ as per Notification S.O. 2731 (E) dated 9th September 2013. Also vide O.M. No. L-11011/47/2011-IA-II (M) dated 24.06.2013, guidelines has been issued regarding categorization of mining projects of brick earth and ordinary earth having lease areas less than 5 hectare as Category ‘B2’ subject to stipulations stated therein.

In the above backdrop, the projects of mining of minor minerals, categorized as Category ‘B’ are hereby categorized as ‘B2’ as per the following:

- (i) ‘Brick Earth’ / ‘Ordinary Earth’ mining projects having lease area less than 5 ha will be considered for granting EC as per the aforesaid guidelines issued by MOEF on 24.06.2013.
- (ii) ‘Brick Earth’ / ‘Ordinary Earth’ mining projects with mining lease area more than equal to 5 ha but less than equal to 25 ha and all other minor , mineral mining projects with mining lease area < 25 ha, except for river sand mining projects will be appraised as Category ‘B2’ projects.

These projects will be appraised based on the following documents:

- (a) Form-1 as per the Appendix-I under the EIA Notification 2006
- (b) Pre-feasibility report of the project
- (c) Mining plan approved by the authorized agency of the concerned State Government.

Provided in case the mining lease area is likely to result into a cluster situation, i.e. if the periphery of one lease area is less than 500 meter from the periphery of another lease area and the total lease area equals or exceeds 25 ha, the activity shall become Category ‘B1’ Project under the EIA Notification, 2006. In such a case, mining operations in any of the mine lease areas in the cluster will be allowed only if the environmental clearance has been obtained in respect of the cluster.

About river sand mining it says that:

- (iii) No river sand mining project, with mine lease area less than 5 ha, may be considered for granting EC. The river sand mining projects with lease area more than equal to 5 ha but less than 25 ha will be categorized as ‘B2’. In addition to the requirement of documents, as brought out above under sub-para (ii) above for appraisal, such projects will be considered subject to the following stipulations:
 - (a) The mining activity shall be done manually. The depth of mining shall be restricted to 3 m / water level, whichever is less.
 - (b) For carrying out mining in proximity to any bridge and / or embankment, appropriate safety zone shall be worked out on case to case basis to the satisfaction of SEAC / SEIAA, taking into account the structural parameters, locational aspects, flow rate etc., and no mining shall be carried out in the safety zone so worked out. No in-stream mining shall be allowed.



- (c) The mining plan approved by the authorized agency of the State Government shall inter-alia include study to show that the annual replenishment of sand in the mining lease area is sufficient to sustain mining operations at levels prescribed in the mining plan and that the transport infrastructure is adequate to transport the mines material. In case of transportation by road the transport vehicles will be covered with the tarpaulin to minimize dust/ sand particle emissions.
- (d) EC will be valid for mine lease period subject to a ceiling of 5 years.

Provided, in case the mining lease area is likely to result into a cluster situation i.e. if the periphery of one lease area is less than 1 km from the periphery of another lease area and total lease area equals to or exceeds 25 ha., the activity shall become Category 'B1' Projects under EIA Notification, 2006. In such a case, mining operation in any of the mine lease area in the cluster will be allowed only if the environment clearance has been obtained in respect of the cluster.

The NGT order dated 13.01.2015 in O.A. No. 123 of 2014 and M.A. No. 419 of 2014 has following directions on the issue of cluster: "In light of the judgment of the Supreme Court and what has emerged from the various cases that are subject matter of this Judgment, we direct the Ministry of Environment and Forest to formulate a uniform cluster policy in consultation with the States for permitting minor mineral mining activity including its regulatory regime, in accordance with law.

Notification S.O. 1559 (E) dated 25th June 2014 provides that "Any project or activity specified in Category 'B' will be appraised at the Central Level as Category 'A', if located in whole or in part within 5 km. from the boundary of: (i) Protected Areas; (ii) CEPI; (iii) ESA; (iv) Inter-state boundaries or international boundaries

The NGT vide its order dated 13.01.2015 has quashed the Notification dated 9th September 2013, but similar provision on clusters exists in Notification dated 7th October 2014.

The EIA Notification 2006, as amended makes it clear that projects in respect of non-coal mine leases, where the area is more than equal to 50 hectares would require prior Environmental Clearance from MoEFCC, while the projects of area less than 50 hectares would be appraised for prior Environmental Clearance at the level of SEIAA.

The EIA Notification of 2006 in Clause 7 specifies the stages through which projects for grant of Environmental Clearance are required to be passed and processed. The stages include Screening, Scoping, Public Consultation and Appraisal, upon which, the Expert Appraisal Committee makes recommendation to the MoEF/SEIAA. Under 'Screening', this Clause 7 also provides for a further bifurcation of projects falling under category 'B' into 'B 1' and 'B 2'. The relevant part of Clause 7, dealing with this aspect, reads as under: "Stage (1) – Screening (Only for Category 'B' projects and activities): In case of Category 'B' projects or activities, this stage will entail the scrutiny of an application seeking prior environmental clearance made in Form 1 by the concerned State level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) for determining whether or not the project or activity requires further environmental studies for preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for its appraisal prior to the grant of environmental clearance depending up on the nature and location specificity of the project . The projects requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment report shall be termed Category 'B1' and remaining projects shall be termed Category 'B2' and will not require an Environment Impact Assessment report. For categorization of projects into B1 or B2 except item 8 (b), the Ministry of Environment and Forests shall issue appropriate guidelines from time to time."

The Ministry on 24th December, 2013, issued Office Memorandum for consideration of proposals for grant of Environmental Clearance regarding categorisation of Category 'B' projects into Category 'B1' and 'B2'. Mining of minor minerals had been separately dealt with in this Office Memorandum. Such area up to 25 hectares would be categorised as 'B 2' and such projects were to be considered, subject to the stipulations stated therein.

The EIA Notification, 2006 does not provide for issuance of Environment Clearance to Cluster of mines. It provides for EC to individual lease holders / project proponents. This position has also been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment of Vivek Bansal Vs. State of Haryana that EC should be applied for and granted to the individual lease holder.



There has been rising concerns about adverse impact of mining on small leases (less than 5 hectare) in case the numbers of such leases are large and they are located in close proximity to each other. This leads to the definition of Cluster. To avoid the rigors of environment impact assessment studies, environment management plan and the environment clearance there has been a tendency to break the leases into size which does not attract the provisions of environment impact assessment studies, environment management plan, public consultation and the environment clearance. In Deepak Kumar's case Hon'ble Supreme Court also encountered this situation and in its order dated 27.02.2012 mandated that no mining lease or renewal be done without environment clearance irrespective of size.

It is seen that the categorization of mines into 'B1' and 'B2' category in which Category 'B2' leases are being exempted from the requirement of Environment Impact Assessment, Environment Management Plan, and Public Consultation for grant of EC, in many cases now the mining leases are being given for 25 hectares or less. This defeats the purpose and intent of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment which orders environment clearance for all mining leases irrespective of size. The environment clearance without Environment Impact Assessment, Environment Management Plan, and Public Consultation does not serve the purpose of environment clearance which is to ensure environmentally sustainable and socially responsible mining. So if a cluster or individual lease size exceeds 5 hectare, the EIA/ EMP should be completed in the process of grant of prior environment clearance.

The EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments to that or any O.M. issued by the Ministry do not provide for procedures and Competent Authority for environment clearance for cluster. In a cluster there will mostly be situation where there are a number of different lease holders and as per the settled law the lease holder has to do the working of mine and the lease holder is the one who can apply for and get the environment clearance. The conditions stipulated in the environment clearance have to be complied by the EC holder and any violation of that empowers the authority to cancel the environment clearance or prosecute the EC holder if necessitated by the circumstances.

For cluster there is no mechanism about who will apply for EC, EC will be issued in whose name, and who will be responsible for compliance of EC conditions.

The intent of cluster assessment is to have a holistic knowledge of the impact on environment by different mines operating in close proximity of each other. There are also requirement of mitigative measures which need implementation in concerted manner by different EC holders of that cluster. To ensure that it is important that there should be an integrated Environment Impact Assessment / Environment Management Plan for the cluster to be presented before the authority appraising the projects and considering the proposals for grant of EC. This integrated EIA/ EMP can be prepared by either the lease holder, group of lease holders, State or the State Agencies. This EIA/ EMP need to be prepared by the accredited consultants / Registered Qualified Persons of the State Governments. The application for EC and grant of EC should be done in the name of individual lease holders in the background of the integrated EIA/EMP report. The Competent Authority (SEIAA/ SEAC / EAC) will entertain individual lease holder's application for grant of EC to individual mining lease projects in that cluster in the name of lease holders. The conditions related to mitigative measures necessitated by the integrated EIA/EMP may run across more than one lease holder or EC holders, that should figure in each EC accordingly and its compliance be ensured by the individual EC holders.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, NGT, SEAC/EAC and the Project Proponents have raised issue of cluster in mine lease allotment and environment clearance for the same, so following conditions need to be ensured for cluster of mines:

- 1 To address the concern of adverse impact of minor mineral mining on environment it is proposed that all mining activity including river sand mining (above 5 hectare individual or cluster) will need to prepare Environment Impact Assessment Report and Environment Management Plan before grant of environment clearance. These reports (EIA /EMP) can be prepared by the State or State nominated Agency / the Project Proponent (s).
- 2 As can be seen from the data provided by the States most of the mining leases for minor minerals are of lease area less than 5 hectare. It is also reported that in hill states getting a stretch in river with area more than 5 hectare is very uncommon. So the size of lease for minor minerals including river sand mining will be determined by the States as per their circumstances.



- 3 The mining of minor minerals is mostly in clusters. The Environment Impact Assessment / Environment Management Plan are required to be prepared for the entire cluster in order to capture all the possible externalities. These reports should capture carrying capacity of the cluster, transportation and related issues, replenishment and recharge issues, geo-hydrological study of the cluster area. This report (EIA /EMP) can be prepared by the State or State nominated Agency / Group of Project Proponents in the Cluster / the Project Proponent in the cluster.
- 4 The EIA Notification, 2006 does not provide for cluster EC, it provides for issuance of EC to individual project proponents and the same has also been upheld in the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Vijay Bansal vs. State of Haryana case. So EC will have to be applied for and issued to the individual project proponent.
- 5 The concerns of cluster EIA/ EMP will be reflected in each EC in that cluster and SEAC /SEIAA and EAC will ensure that the mitigative measures emanating from the EIA / EMP study are fully reflected as EC conditions in the ECs of individual project proponents in that cluster.
- 6 The EIA Notification says that individual lease area of 50 ha. and above is of Category 'A' and appraised by the EAC / MOEFCC. In case of clusters the projects will be considered by the SEAC / SEIAAs for according EC irrespective of the cumulative size of the cluster if size of each lease in that cluster is less than 50 ha.
- 7 As the sand is mostly mined from rivers and majority of the rivers which are important source of sand also form boundary between States, so because of General Conditions most of the sand mining projects become Category 'A' project. So the General Conditions will not apply in case of river sand and gravel mining projects on account of being in 5 kilometer of inter-state boundary.
- 8 The Committee headed by the District Magistrate / District Collector will be empowered to appraise and grant EC for mining leases (individual or cluster) of size up to 5 hectare for sand mining, SEAC / SEIAA will accord EC to sand mining projects of lease area of more than 5 hectare and less than 50 hectare.
- 9 In case the mining leases are in cluster (if periphery of one lease is within 500 meters) and area of cluster is more than 5 hectare but no individual lease is of area more than 50 hectare, the integrated EIA / EMP of the cluster will be appraised and EC will be granted by the SEIAA / SEAC. There are instances when a lease of size more than 50 hectare has got EC, and subsequent leases granted near it are of sizes less than 50 hectare in that cluster, it will be treated as Category 'B' and appraised by the SEAC and EC will be granted by the SEIAA.
- 10 If any individual lease in a cluster is of size more than 50 hectare, it will be Category 'A' project and will be appraised by the EAC and EC will be granted by the MoEFCC.

20. MANAGEMENT OF SAND DEPOSITED AFTER FLOOD ON AGRICULTURAL FIELD OF FARMERS

The Standing Committee on Water Resources on issues, concerning flood management, compensation, and status of ownership of submerged and eroded land in the country including compensation to farmers for loss of their crops destroyed by floods and right to disposal of the sand left in the fields of farmers in its meeting held on 29.04.2015 made observations on this subject.

The Committee observed that pursuant to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India decision in "Deepak Kumar Case" in 2012, regulations were framed by the Ministry of Mines to guide environmental clearance of minor minerals. ... The Committee, therefore, desires the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to work in close coordination with the Ministry of Mines and Environment, Forest and Climate Change to frame regulations / guidelines in this regard expeditiously.

Mining of Sand

The Committee further observed that due to the floods, the agricultural land of farmer is destroyed and rendered infertile. Further the farmer loses his livelihood as the produce of his land is destroyed by flood and become unsalable. The farmer is also deprived of the right of lifting sand from his land. He is therefore, left helpless and destitute and leave their land in search of job.



The Committee observes that “mining operation” means any operation undertaken for the purpose of winning any mineral. Accordingly, if desilting is undertaken with the objective of winning a mineral then only it will be construed as a mining operation. Apparently, if the desilting is undertaken not for winning any mineral, it will not be construed as mining operation and therefore, the farmer can remove the sand from the land without requiring the requisite permits. However, the Committee strongly feels that the farmer be given the right to use and dispose-off the sand accumulated over their land post flood, by incorporating the necessary provisions in the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957”.

Removal of sand from the agricultural field by the owner farmer of the land from environment point of view will not be considered as mining operation and its removal and selling can be allowed without the requirement of environment clearance till it is done only to the extent of reclaiming the agricultural land. The sand deposited after flood only be removed, so no mining / digging below the ground level is allowed. (For removing sand in case where private land has gone into the river due to erosion, the requirement of mining lease and environment clearance will continue). This operation of removal of sand deposited on agricultural field should be done after a mapping of deposition is done by the Land Management Committee of the Gram Panchayat. The sand so deposited post flood can be removed by the farmer owning the land / group of farmers affected by this post flood sand deposition or the Gram Panchayat. It can be disposed-off by using it in community work of Gram Panchayat or market after payment of due royalty as decided by the State Government.

21. MINING OF SAND FROM AGRICULTURAL FIELD

This practice is prevalent in Haryana, where the top layer of soil varying between 1 and 2 meters is removed and stacked separately and thereafter the sand deposit which may be 10-15 meter deep is mined. After removing the sand layer up to a maximum depth of 09 meters, the top soil stacked is spread out on the field and the same is brought under the cultivation. Though the level of this land (mined out area) is lowered to the depth of the excavation and in initial years of cultivation the productivity is low, but the productivity of the fields improves with continued cultivation and addition of organic manure in the field. It is seen that in Haryana some leases are of large area (ranging from 1000 hectare to 2000 hectare) the agricultural fields and river bed both are included in the same lease for mining.

The following recommendations should be kept in mind for mining in such leases:

1. Mining of sand in such mine leases will require environment clearance.
2. The lease should be of sand mining either from the agricultural field or river. In same lease both type of area should not be included.
3. The sand mining from agricultural field is being done in Haryana for a long time and it can be done in a more sustainable manner without adverse impact on agricultural productivity, if proper environmental safeguards are taken.
4. The slope of mining area adjacent to agricultural fields should be proper (preferably 45-60 degree) and adequate gap (minimum 10 feet) be left from adjacent agricultural field to avoid erosion and scouring.

22. CUSTOMARY RIGHT ON SAND MINING

The native people have their long held customary rights to take silt, sand & soil from their tanks and nearby rivers for their use or community works in the village in almost all the States in some form or the other.

Next to the reserved forests, tanks and rivers are the biggest common properties in India. Most of the village tanks are ‘government properties’ with some exceptions of privately held tanks. Land revenue department, irrigation department and forest department is given powers to deal with property right’ and hence protecting all tanks and rivers preventing damages including encroachments is their responsibility. The local villagers were given ‘customary rights’ under the Revenue Department Orders, and other laws related to Panchayats and Easements to take sand, soil and earth for agricultural and domestic purposes without seeking any permission from anyone. The States strive to keep these customary rights to use such resources like soil and



sand for individuals work and community work in the village intact without requirement of any permit and clearance. These customary rights need to be protected and respected.

DESILTING OF RESERVOIRS / BARRAGES / ANNECUTS / LAKES / CANALS:

These structures are generally in possession and maintenance of Irrigation Department / Minor Irrigation Department / PHED of State Governments. The dams and reservoirs can be a significant source of sand. Many such structures are silted and their water holding capacity has gone down considerably. In some instances to compensate for silted capacity raising of height of dam or construction of new structures is proposed which further leads to submergence of new areas of agricultural field and forests. Taking up desilting of such projects can serve dual purpose of increasing the water holding capacity and making available the sand for other usage. In some States the Irrigation Department is permitted to use it for the departmental works free of charge and balance can be disposed of in market after paying the due royalty.

The de-silting of reservoir, dredging for upkeep and maintenance of structures, channels and averting natural disasters will not be treated as mining for the purpose of environment clearance.

MINING PLAN:

The Environment Clearance shall be given to only those mining leases which have mine plan approved by the Competent Authority designated by the States. Modification of the mining plan during operation will also need approval of the Competent Authority. The Mining Plan shall be prepared by the Recognised Qualified Persons (RQP). The person to be recognized for preparing the mining plan should be a holding a degree of Mining Engineering, Environmental Engineering or a post graduate degree in Geology granted by a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act or a State Act including any institutions recognized by the UGC or any equivalent qualification granted by any University or institution outside India and have a professional experience of three years of working in a supervisory capacity in the field of mining after obtaining a degree. The States will devise their own mechanism of selection and empanelment of RQPs. A mining plan should be valid for a period of 5 years, which can be renewed further.

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF SAND MINING

To assess the impact of mining and effect of remedial measures can be assessed through monitoring. This is also required for mid-course corrections. Monitoring will provide data to evaluate the upstream and downstream effects of sand and gravel extraction activities, and long-term changes. A brief report summarizing the annual results of the physical and biological monitoring should document the evolution of the sites over time, and the cumulative effects of sand and gravel extraction. The summary should also recommend any modification of extraction rates needed to minimize impacts of extraction.

Sand Replenishment, Geomorphology and Hydrology:

Physical monitoring requirements of sand and gravel extraction activities should include surveyed channel cross-sections, longitudinal profiles, bed material measurements, geomorphic maps, and discharge and sediment transport measurements. The physical data will illustrate bar replenishment and any changes in channel morphology, bank erosion, or particle size.

In addition to local monitoring for replenishment at specific mining sites, monitoring of the entire reach through the estuary will provide information on the cumulative response of the system to sand and gravel extraction. For example, it is important for downstream bars and the estuary to receive sufficient sand and gravel to maintain estuarine structure and function. Because the elevation of the bed of the channel is variable from year to year, a reach-based approach to monitoring will provide a larger context for site-specific changes. If long-term monitoring data show that there is a reach-scale trend of bed lowering (on bars or in the thalweg), the extraction could be limited.

Cross-sections:

Surveyed channel cross-sections should be located at permanently documented sites upstream, downstream and within the extraction area. Cross-sections intended to show reach- scale changes should be consistently



located over geomorphic features such as at the head of riffles, across the deepest part of pools, or across particular types of channel bars.

Cross-section spacing should be close enough to define the morphology of the river channel. Cross-section data should be surveyed in March or April to evaluate changes that may occur during the flooding season. Cross-section data should be collected over the reach to the estuary, and locally upstream, downstream, and within each mining site. This long-term monitoring data should be collected and analyzed even if no mining occurs in order to understand the trends of the river.

Photo-documentation:

Photographs of the project sites should be taken prior to excavation to document the baseline conditions, and again during each monitoring session. Photos should be taken twice a year.

Groundwater Level:

Monitoring wells should be established adjacent to each off-channel floodplain excavation to record changes in ground water levels. Measurements should be taken monthly.

Extent and Quality of Riparian Vegetation:

Document the extent and quality of riparian vegetation, including successional status, and any increase in disturbance indicators (non-native plants). The extent of riparian habitat can be determined utilising aerial photos. Habitat quality data, i.e., successional status and species composition, must be determined through field reconnaissance.

Riparian Vegetation Maps:

Develop yearly maps of the sensitive habitat areas and document their aerial extent over time. These maps may be combined with the geomorphic maps. Monitor sites identified as sensitive for disturbance in excess of expected geomorphic trends - i.e., massive bank wasting up or downstream from an active mine site. Monitor sand and gravel mining impacts which may translate up and downstream, causing accelerated erosion of sensitive zones and impacting the ability of new habitat to form due to excessive scour or sedimentation.

This monitoring / documentation should be done by the EC holders and will be regularly checked and assessed by the DEIAA for corrective steps in time. The DEIAA should review the status of monitoring and documentation data of each mining site especially for sand mining once in a year.

23. MONITORING SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING

The implementation of these Guidelines on Sustainable Sand Mining is not possible till States create a robust mechanism to monitor the mining operation and measure the mined out mineral. The entire exercise of Environment Impact Assessment and Environment Management Plan aims towards making the mining process environmentally sustainable. The Environment Clearance letter indicates the EC capacity that is the quantity of material which can be mined in a year. If this quantity is not measured, and much more mineral than envisaged in the EC is mined out then the entire process of EC is rendered futile. Keeping above objective in mind it is required of the State / State Agencies to create and establish a robust system to monitor and measure the mined out mineral at each lease location and its transportation in State.

The State Governments have tried various methods for monitoring the sand mining in their areas, the main feature of which generally has been through Transport Permits (T.P.). The printing of Transport Permits on security paper, invisible ink mark, fugitive ink background, VOID pantograph and Unique Barcode are some of the tools used by the States. These tools need to be backed by suitable software and dedicated websites with security certifications at different levels.

The system proposed is that States should issue Transport Permit by bidder to a vehicle, bar code on the T.P. was scanned using the system, which generate a unique invoice number. The bidder has to enter destination, distance between plot and destination, vehicle number etc in the system. After scanning, unique bar code number, invoice date time and validity date time is sent to the bidder, which need to be written on T.P. Validity of T.P. is calculated based on distance between plot and destination. After validity time is over the T.P. stands invalid. The officers involved in monitoring should be provided with the android application using which the T.P. can be checked anywhere on road. As soon as the bar code on T.P. gets scanned through using android application, all details of T.P. such as plot details, vehicle details, validity time etc. should get



fetched from server. This means, if anything is re-written on T.P. and attempt is made to reuse the same, it can be traced immediately. Registering of T.P. on server can be done using website, using android application (smartphone with internet) or even through SMS (smartphone without internet). This implies that TP can be registered on server even if only mobile phone range is available on plot. Various reports can be generated using the system showing daily lifting reports and user performance report. This way the vehicles carrying sand can be tracked from source to destination.

MONITORING SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING

1. The State Governments should use various methods for monitoring the sand mining in their areas; the most important among them is through Transport Permits (T.P.). The security feature of T.P. should be as follows:

- (a) Printed on IBA approved MICR paper.
- (b) Unique Barcode.
- (c) Unique QR code.
- (d) Fugitive Ink Background.
- (e) Invisible Ink Mark.
- (f) Void Pantograph.
- (g) Watermark.

2. Requirement at Mine Lease Site:

- (a) Small Size Plot (Up to 5 hectare): Android Based Smart Phone.
- (b) Large Size Plots (More than 5 ha or cluster): CCTV camera, PC, Internet Connection, Power Back up.
- (c) Access control of mine lease site.
- (d) Arrangement for weighment or approximation of weight of mined out mineral on basis of volume of the trailer of the vehicle used.

3. Scanning of T.P. / Receipt and Uploading on Server:

- (a) Website: Scanning of receipt on mining site can be done through barcode scanner and computer using the software.
- (b) Android Application: Scanning on mining site can be done using Android Application using smartphone. It will require internet availability on SIM card.
- (c) SMS: T.P. / Receipt can be uploaded on server even by sending SMS through mobile.

Once T.P. / Receipt get uploaded, an unique invoice code gets generated with its validity period.

4. Proposed Working of the System:

The State Mining Department should print the T.P. / Receipt with security features enumerated at Para 2 above and issue them to the mine lease holder. Once issued all these T.Ps./ Receipts should be uploaded on the server against that mine lease area. Each receipt should be preferably with pre-fixed quantity, so the total quantity gets determined for the receipts issued.

When the T.P. / Receipt barcode gets scanned and invoice is generated, that particular barcode gets used and its validity time is recorded on the server. So all the details of transporting of mined out material can be captured on the server and the T.P. Receipt cannot be reused.

5. Checking On Route:

The staff deployed for the purpose of checking of vehicles carrying mined mineral can easily check the validity of T.P. / Receipt by scanning them using website, Android Application and SMS.

6. Breakdown of Vehicle:

Vehicle breakdown is a common phenomenon in sand transportation. In such cases the validity of T.P./ Receipt can be extended by sending SMS by driver in specific format to report breakdown of vehicle. The server should register this information and register the breakdown. The State / District can also establish a call centre, which can register breakdowns of such vehicles and extend the validity period. The subsequent restart of the vehicle also should be similarly reported to the server / call centre.



7. Tracking of Vehicles:

The route of vehicle from source to destination can be tracked through the system using check points, RFID Tags, and GPS tracking.

8. Alerts / Report Generation and Action Review:

The system will enable the authorities to develop periodic report on different parameters like daily lifting report, vehicle log/ history, lifting against allocation, and total lifting. The system can be used to generate auto mails / SMS. This will enable the District Magistrate to get all the relevant details and will enable the authority to block the scanning facility of any site found to be indulged in irregularity. Whenever any authority intercepts any vehicle transporting illegal sand, it gets registered on the server and it becomes mandatory for the officer to fill in the report on action taken. Every intercepted vehicle can be tracked till fine is paid and action is completed.

9. Authority to Monitor:

The monitoring of mined out mineral, EC conditions and enforcement of EMP will be ensured by the District Collector and the officers authorized by the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority for the purpose, State Pollution Control Board. The monitoring of enforcement of EC conditions can also be done by the Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the agency nominated by the Ministry for the purpose.

24. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE AND ENSURING COMPLIANCE OF EC CONDITIONS:

The Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 provides that mining lease area of 50 hectare and more will be appraised for environment clearance by the Expert Appraisal Committee and the environment clearance will be given by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

It is proposed to categorise mining lease area of minor minerals up to 5 hectare as Category 'B2'. Hon'ble Supreme Court has ordered that all mining should be done only after environment clearance. It is proposed that all the mining leases will have to have environmental clearance and except for Category 'B2' (individual or cluster lease area up to 5 hectare) other mining leases will prepare environment impact assessment report and environment management plan.

The same can be prepared by the State Government or any agency of the State, group of project proponents in the cluster or the individual project proponent. The EIA / EMP can be prepared by the accredited consultants or the Registered Qualified Person(s) / agencies selected by the States.

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

For, minor minerals including sand and gravel mining lease of area up to 5 hectare the appraisal and grant of EC will be done by the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA) headed by the District Collector / District Magistrate. The brick earth E.C. cases up to 5 hectare which will be granted by the DEIAA will have guiding principles as enumerated in O.M. dated 24.06.2013.

This Authority will be responsible for proper and sustainable management of sand mining in the district. The Authority will be responsible for designating the area / stretch in river suitable for mining in the district and also identifying the area / stretch in river prohibited for sand mining.

The Authority will ensure clear demarcation of mining site, its documentation, and ensuring that no mining takes place without EIA / EMP and EC of the mining site.

The Committee shall meet at least once in a month.



The District Environment Impact Assessment Authority:

(Quorum will be 04 members including Chairperson) will have following composition:

District Collector	Chairperson
Divisional Forest Officer	Member
One Expert either from Ecology, Environment, Geology, Water Resources or Agriculture from Government Institution / College / University in the district to be nominated by Divisional Commissioner or Chief Conservator, Forest for a period of three years renewable for one more term.	Member
District Mines Department Officer / Geologist in the district	Member Secretary

DISTRICT LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE:

The District Level Expert Appraisal Committee (DEAC) will appraise the cases and make recommendations to the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority for environment clearance. This Committee will also make recommendations / suggestions on the District Survey Report to the DEIAA. The DEAC will have following composition:

The District Level Expert Appraisal Committee:

Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department	Chairperson
Representative of State Pollution Control Board	Member
Two Expert either from Ecology, Environment, Geology, Water Resources or Agriculture from Government Institution / College / University in the district to be nominated by Divisional Commissioner or Chief Conservator, Forest for a period of three years and renewable for one more term.	Member
One Zila Panchayat / Parishad Member of the district to be nominated by Divisional Commissioner or Chief Conservator, Forest for a period of three years and renewable for one more term.	
One Expert with Socio-economic background and work experience in the district to be nominated by Divisional Commissioner or Chief Conservator, Forest for a period of three years and renewable for one more term.	
Senior most Sub- Divisional Forest Officer / ACF in the District	Member
Officer from Remote Sensing or Geology Department or State Ground Water Department	Member
Senior most Sub-divisional Officer in the District	Member Secretary

The quorum will be four officers at least. The DEAC will meet at least once a month, depending on the work load the frequency of meetings can be decided by the Chiarman of DEAC and Chairman, DEIAA.

In case the mine lease area is more than 5 hectare but less than 50 hectare the EC will be granted by the SEIAA / SEAC. In cases where the situation is of cluster and all the individual mines in that cluster are of area less than 50 hectare, the EIA/EMP of entire cluster will be prepared of which after appraisal the EC will be given by the SEIAA / SEAC. In cases of cluster where any single lease is of area more than or equal to 50 hectare the case will be Category 'A' and the appraisal will be done by the EAC and the EC will be given by the MoEFCC. The cases where cluster is being formed by smaller leases around a lease with area more than or equal to 50 hectare, but the lease with area equal to or more than 50 hectare has already got EC, the case for subsequent smaller leases will be treated as Category 'B1'. There will be one Public Consultation for entire cluster. The EC will be applied for by the individual lease holder / project proponent and the SEIAA / SEAC will give EC in the name of individual project proponent and put the EC conditions emanating from the cluster EIA / EMP in a manner to achieve the objectives of the cluster EMP. Each proposal for the mining lease under consideration for environment clearance in the district will be inspected on-site by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee headed by the SDM.

The Sub-Divisional Committee should comprise of following officers:

Sub-divisional Magistrate	Chairperson
Sub-Divisional Officer, Forest/ Assistant Conservator of Forest/ Forest Range Officer	Member
Representative of State Pollution Control Board	Member
SDO, Irrigation Department	Member
Geologist or Assistant Geologist or Mining Officer / Mining Inspector	Member



The presence of at least three members will be needed for inspection. This Committee shall submit its report within 15 days from the receipt of the proposal.

The monitoring of EC conditions and enforcement of EMP will be ensured by the District Collector and the, State Pollution Control Board. The monitoring of enforcement of EC conditions can also be done by the Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the agency nominated by the Ministry for the purpose.

Tabular Depiction of above provisions

Area of Lease (Hectare)	Category of Project	Requirement of EIA / EMP	Requirement of Public Hearing	Requirement of EC	Responsibility of getting prepared EIA/ EMP	Who will apply for EC	Authority to appraise and grant EC	Authority to monitor EC compliance
EC Proposal of Sand Mining on the basis of individual mine lease								
0 – 5 ha	'B2'	Form –I, PFR and Approved Mine Plan	No	Yes	Project Proponent	Project Proponent	District Environment Impact Assessment Authority headed by the District Collector	District Collector SPCB CPCB MOEFCC Agency nominated by MOEFCC
> 5 ha and < 50 ha	'B1'	Yes	Yes	Yes	Project Proponent	Project Proponent	SEIAA / SEAC	Agency nominated by MOEFCC
50 ha and above	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Project Proponent	Project Proponent	MoEFCC / EAC	
EC Proposal of Sand Mining in Cluster								
Cluster of mine leases less than 5 ha	'B2'	Form –I, PFR and Approved Mine Plan	No	Yes	State, State Agency, Group of Project Proponents, Project Proponent	Project Proponent	District Environment Impact Assessment Authority headed by the District Collector	District Collector SPCB CPCB MOEFCC Agency nominated by MOEFCC
Cluster of mine leases of any size with all individual lease in cluster less than 50 ha	'B1'	Yes	Yes	Yes	State, State Agency, Group of Project Proponents, Project Proponent	Project Proponent	SEIAA/ SEAC	Agency nominated by MOEFCC
Cluster of any size with any of the individual lease in cluster more than 50 ha	'A'	Yes	Yes	Yes	State, State Agency, Group of Project Proponents, Project Proponent	Project Proponent	MoEFCC / EAC	

General Conditions will not apply on account of inter- state boundaries for river sand mining leases.

25. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN CASES FROM BEING CONSIDERED AS MINING FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUIREMNT OF ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE

Keeping in view the purpose, maintenance of infrastructure, abatement of disasters, customary easement and property rights, it is felt that following cases may not be treated as mining for the purpose of requirement of environmental clearance. The States can consider making appropriate provisions in respective laws and rules to exempt these cases from being considered as mining and no rent, royalty or permit fee be charged.

1. Extraction of ordinary clay or ordinary sand manually by hereditary Kumhars (Potter) who prepare earthen pots on a cottage industry basis.
2. Extraction of ordinary clay or ordinary sand manually by earthen tile makers who prepare earthen tiles on a cottage industry basis.
3. Removal of sand deposited on agricultural field after flood by owner farmers.



4. Customary extraction of sand and ordinary earth from sources situated in Gram Panchayat for personal use or community work in village.
5. Community works like desilting of village ponds / tanks, rural roads under taken in MGNREGS and other Government sponsored schemes.
6. Dredging and desilting of dam, reservoirs, weirs, barrages, river, and canals for maintenance and upkeep and avert natural disaster provided the dredged material is used departmentally. If the dredging activities are under taken for the purpose of winning mineral and selling it commercially it will be considered mining.



26. STANDARD ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS FOR SAND MINING

#	IMPACT CATEGORY	S.N.	ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS
A	Stakeholder Engagement	01	In the case of private land not owned by the lease holder an affidavit should be obtained regarding consent of the concerned land owner (s) for carrying out the mining operation.
		02	Stakeholder awareness and ability to raise concerns and getting it addressed
		03	Implementation of Action Plan on the issues raised during the Public Consultation. The Proponent shall complete all the tasks as per the Action Plan submitted with the budgetary provisions during the Public Hearing
		04	Having valid lease and permits
		05	To establish a Monitoring Committee, to check on traffic due to transportation and submit an annual report on the same.
		06	The directions given by the Hon`ble Supreme Court vide order dated 27.02.2012 in Deepak Kumar case [SLP(C) Nos. 19628-19629 of 2009] and order dated 05.08.2013 of the national Green Tribunal in application No. 171/2013 may be strictly followed.
		07	All the provisions made and restrictions imposed as covered in the Minor Mineral Rule, shall be complied with, particularly regarding Environment Management Practices and its fund management & Payment of compensation to the land owners.
B	Sustainable Mining Practices	01	District level Survey Report should be prepared and area suitable for mining and area prohibited for mining be identified. Use of ISRO and NRSA maps along with physical site inspection should be done to prepare this report.
		02	The depth of mining in river-bed shall not exceed three meter or water level, whichever is less, provided that where the Joint Inspection Committee certifies about excessive deposit or over accumulation of mineral in certain reaches requiring channelization, it can be as specified by the Committee, on defined reaches of the river.
		03	No river sand mining be allowed in rainy season (July, August, and September).
		04	To submit annual replenishment report certified by an authorized agency. In case the replenishment is lower than the approved rate of production, then the mining activity / production levels shall be decreased / stopped accordingly till the replenishment is completed.
		05	In hilly terrain this depth be preferably restricted to one meter. Ultimate working depth shall be up to 2 m from river bed level and not less than one meter from the water level of the River channel whichever is reached earlier.
		06	In river flood plain mining, a buffer of 3 meter be left from the river bank for mining.
		07	In mining from agricultural field, a buffer of 3 meter be left from the adjacent field.
		08	Mining shall be done in layers of 1 m depth to avoid ponding effect and after first layer is excavated, the process will be repeated for the next layers.
		09	To maintain safety and stability of river banks i.e. 3 m or 10% of the width of the river whichever is less will be left intact as no mining zone.
		10	No stream should be diverted for the purpose of sand mining. No natural water course and/ or water resources are obstructed due to mining operations.
B	Sustainable Mining Practices	11	No blasting shall be resorted to in river mining and without permission at any other place.
		12	Depending upon the location, thickness of sand, deposition, agricultural land/river bed, the method of mining may be manual, semi-mechanized or mechanized; however, manual method of mining shall be preferred over any other method.
		13	No labour camp be allowed in riverbed.
C	Mandatory Pre-Mining Activities	01	Mining should be done only in area / stretch identified in the District Level Survey Report suitable for mining and so certified by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee after site visit.
		02	Mining should begin only after pucca pillar marking the boundary of lease area is erected at the cost of the lease holder after certification by the mining official and its geo coordinates are made available to the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority.
		03	The top soil in case of surface mining shall be stored temporarily in an earmarked site and concurrently used for land reclamation.
D	Monitoring of Mined out Material and its Transportation	01	The EC holder shall keep a correct account of quantity of mineral mined out, dispatched from the mine, mode of transport, registration number of vehicle, person in-charge of vehicle and mine plan. This should be produced before officers of Central Government and State for inspection.
		02	For each mining lease site the access should be controlled in a way that vehicles carrying mineral from that area are tracked and accounted for.



		03	The State Government and the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority should use technology like Bar coding, Web based technology to track the vehicle till unloading , ICT and ICT enabled services, mobile SMS App etc. to account for weight of mineral being taken out of the lease area and the number of trucks moving out with the mineral.
		04	There should be regular monitoring of the mining activities in the State / District to ensure effective compliance of stipulated EC conditions and of the provisions under the Minor Mineral Concessions Rules framed by the State Government.
E	Noise Management	01	Noise arising out of mining and processing shall be abated and controlled at source to keep within permissible limit.
		02	Restricted working hours: Sand mining operation has to be carried out between 6 am to 7 pm. In forest areas.
F	Air Pollution and Dust Management	01	The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled & water sprinkling will also be done regularly.
		02	Air Pollution due to dust, exhaust emission or fumes during mining and processing phase should be controlled and kept in permissible limits specified under environmental laws.
		03	The mineral transportation shall be carried out through covered trucks only and the vehicles carrying the mineral shall not be overloaded. Wheel washing facility should be installed and used.
G	Management of Visual Impact	01	The aesthetics of the site be maintained.
H	Bio-Diversity Protection	01	Restoration of flora affected by mining should be done immediately. Twice the number of trees destroyed by mining be planted preferably of indigenous species.
		02	No mining lease shall be granted in the forest area without forest clearance in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the rules made thereunder.
		03	Protection of turtle, bird habitats and other biodiversity and micro climate.
		04	No felling of tree near quarry is allowed.
		05	For mining lease within 10 km or Notified ESZ of the National Park / Sanctuary or in Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Protected Area, recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board of Wild Life (NBWL) have to be obtained as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order in I.A. No. 460 of 2004.
		06	Protection of spring sources should be ensured.
I	Management of Instability and Erosion	01	Attempt should be there to restrict activities to cause minimum surface soil disturbance.
		02	The EC should stipulate conditions for adequate steps to check soil erosion and control debris flow etc. by constructing engineering structures
		03	Use of oversize material to control erosion and movement of sediments
		04	No overhangs shall be allowed to be formed due to mining and mining shall not be allowed in area where subsidence of rocks is likely to occur due to steep angle of slope.
		05	No extraction of stone / boulder / sand in landslide prone areas.
		06	Controlled clearance of riparian vegetation
J	Waste Management	01	Site clearance and tidiness
		02	Dumping of waste shall be done in earmarked places as approved in mining plan.
		03	Rubbish burial should not be done in river bed.
K	Pollution Prevention	01	The EC holder shall take all possible precautions for the protection of environment and control of pollution.
		02	Effluent discharge should be kept to the minimum and it should meet the standards prescribed.
L	Protection of Infrastructure	01	No Environment Clearance shall be given for a mining lease located in 200 – 500 meter of bridge, 200 meter upstream and downstream of water supply/ irrigation scheme,100 meters from the edge of National Highway and railway line, 60 meters from a reservoir, canal or building, 25 meter from the edge of State Highway and 10 meters from the edge of other roads except on special exemption by the Sub-Divisional level Joint Inspection Committee.
		02	For carrying out mining in proximity to any bridge or embankment, appropriate safety zone (not less than 200 meters) should be worked out on case to case basis, taking into account the structural parameters, location aspects and flow rate, and no mining should be carried out in the safety zone so worked out
		03	No EC shall be given for mine lease where mining can cause danger to site of flood protection works, places of cultural, religious, historical, and archeological importance.



M	Enhancement of Road Safety	01	Vehicles only with fitness and PUC Certificates should be used
		02	Junction at takeoff point of approach road with main road be properly developed with proper width and geometry required for safe movement of traffic by lease holder at his own cost.
		03	Project Proponent shall ensure that the road may not be damaged due to transportation of the mineral; and transport of minerals will be as per IRC Guidelines with respect to complying with traffic congestion and density.
		04	No stacking allowed on road side along national highways.
N	Management of Cumulative Impact	01	Cluster Mine leases: In case of mine leases are contiguous and adjoining mine lease is located at a distance of less than 500 meters it shall be considered as a Cluster. The EIA/EMP shall be made for cluster including the cumulative impact of all the mines on replenishment and transportation / traffic analysis. The Conditions in EC of individual lease holders in that cluster be strictly complied with by each EC holder.
O	Closure and Reclamation of Mined Out Area	01	The EC holder shall undertake phased restoration, reclamation and rehabilitation of land affected by mining and complete this work before abandonment of mine.
		02	Restoration, reclamation and rehabilitation in cluster should be done systematically and jointly by each EC holder in that cluster. This should be appropriately reflected as EC condition in each EC in cluster.
		03	Site specific plan with eco-restoration should be in place and implemented.
P	Health and Safety	01	Health and safety of workers should be taken care of.
		02	The PP shall make arrangement for drinking water, first aid facility (along with species specific anti-venom provisioning) in case of emergency for the workers.
		03	Project Proponent shall implement the Disaster Management Plan if the mine lease area is located in Seismic Zone-IV. Project Proponent shall appoint a Committee to have a check over any disaster to warn workers well before for the safety of the workers. Emergency helpline number will be displayed at all levels
		04	Project Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular and Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the Project and records maintained; also, Occupational health check-ups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smokers, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly. Recommendations of National Institute for Labour for ensuring good occupational environment for mine workers would also be adopted
Q	Monitoring the Impact of Mining	01	The PP shall report monitoring data on replenishment, traffic management, levels of production, River Bank erosion and maintenance of Road etc.
R	Mineral Conservation	01	Use of alternate material such as M-sand in place of natural river sand shall be encouraged in order to reduce stress on natural eco-system.

**APPENDIX: TABLE – 1****REVENUE FROM SAND MINING IN STATE / UT**

(Rs. in crores)

S.N	STATE / U.T	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 – 2015
01	Andaman & Nicobar	0.073	0	0
02	Andhra Pradesh			
03	Arunachal Pradesh	7	8	5
04	Assam			
05	Bihar			
06	Chandigarh			
07	Chhattisgarh			
08	Dadar Nagar Haveli			
09	Daman & Diu			
10	National Capital Territory of Delhi	0	0	0
11	Goa			
12	Gujarat			
13	Haryana			
14	Himachal Pradesh	0.70	0.35	0.07
15	Jammu & Kashmir			
16	Jharkhand	4.25	3.04	0.07
17	Karnataka	23.74	15.33	25.99
18	Kerala			
19	Lakshadweep			
20	Madhya Pradesh	184.93	179.41	172.53
21	Maharashtra			
22	Manipur			
23	Meghalaya	14.50	15.88	15.50 (as forest royalty from govt. contractors)
24	Mizoram	0.018	0.0475	0.0861
25	Nagaland			
26	Odisha			
27	Puducherry	0.80	0.20	0.03
28	Punjab			
29	Rajasthan	173.36	252.06	134
30	Sikkim			
31	Tamil Nadu	188.50	117.73	109.10
32	Telangana			
33	Tripura			
34	Uttar Pradesh	97.27	166.45	168.38
35	Uttarakhand			
36	West Bengal			



APPENDIX: TABLE – 2
NUMBER OF MINING LEASES IN STATE

(Area in Numbers)

S.N	STATE / U.T	In stream	Flood Plain	Sea Shore	Agricultural field	River	Total
01	Andaman & Nicobar						Nil
02	Andhra Pradesh						Nil
03	Arunachal Pradesh						
04	Assam						
05	Bihar						
06	Chandigarh						
07	Chhattisgarh						
08	Dadar Nagar Haveli						
09	Daman & Diu						
10	National Capital Territory of Delhi						
11	Goa						
12	Gujarat						
13	Haryana	5	12		7		31
14	Himachal Pradesh						
15	Jammu & Kashmir					650	650
16	Jharkhand	10				387	397
17	Karnataka						
18	Kerala						
19	Lakshadweep					1090	1090
20	Madhya Pradesh						
21	Maharashtra						
22	Manipur						NIL
23	Meghalaya						NIL
24	Mizoram						
25	Nagaland						
26	Odisha						NIL
27	Puducherry						
28	Punjab	2 + 80 Temporary Working Permit				73	155
29	Rajasthan						
30	Sikkim		85				85
31	Tamil Nadu						
32	Telangana						
33	Tripura	21	244		5		270
34	Uttar Pradesh						
35	Uttarakhand						
36	West Bengal						



APPENDIX: TABLE – 3

AVERAGE SIZE OF SAND MINING LEASES IN STATE / UT: 2014-15

(Area in Hactre)

S.N	STATE / U.T	AVERAGE SIZE	SMALLEST MINING LEASE AREA	LARGEST MINING LEASE AREA
01	Andaman & Nicobar	NOT APPLICABLE		
02	Andhra Pradesh			
03	Arunachal Pradesh	ONLY MINING PERMITS		
04	Assam			
05	Bihar			
06	Chandigarh			
07	Chhattisgarh			
08	Dadar Nagar Haveli			
09	Daman & Diu			
10	National Capital Territory of Delhi			
11	Goa			
12	Gujarat			
13	Haryana			
14	Himachal Pradesh	1.20	0.25	4.09
15	Jammu & Kashmir			
16	Jharkhand	0.25	0.13	87.38
17	Karnataka	5	5	19.42
18	Kerala			
19	Lakshadweep			
20	Madhya Pradesh	8.52	0.30	306.98
21	Maharashtra			
22	Manipur			
23	Meghalaya	Mostly < 1.5 ha.		
24	Mizoram	NA		
25	Nagaland			
26	Odisha			
27	Puducherry	NA		
28	Punjab			
29	Rajasthan	2 5 in Bikaner	24.82 2 in Bikaner	1901.89 5 in Bikaner
30	Sikkim			
31	Tamil Nadu	29 leases < 10 ha.	14 leases of 10 - 15 ha.	42 leases > 15 ha.
32	Telangana			
33	Tripura			
34	Uttar Pradesh	25	5	200
35	Uttarakhand			
36	West Bengal			

**APPENDIX: TABLE – 4****AVERAGE PERIOD OF SAND MINING LEASES IN STATE / UT**

(Area in Years)

S.N	STATE / U.T	AVERAGE MINING LEASE PERIOD (YEARS)
01	Andaman & Nicobar	Not Applicable
02	Andhra Pradesh	
03	Arunachal Pradesh	Only mining permit is given
04	Assam	
05	Bihar	
06	Chandigarh	
07	Chhattisgarh	
08	Dadar Nagar Haveli	
09	Daman & Diu	
10	National Capital Territory of Delhi	
11	Goa	
12	Gujarat	
13	Haryana	
14	Himachal Pradesh	5
15	Jammu & Kashmir	
16	Jharkhand	3
17	Karnataka	2
18	Kerala	
19	Lakshadweep	
20	Madhya Pradesh	5 to 10
21	Maharashtra	
22	Manipur	
23	Meghalaya	No lease in operation currently
24	Mizoram	No mining lease in operation currently
25	Nagaland	
26	Odisha	
27	Puducherry	One year permit
28	Punjab	
29	Rajasthan	5 20-30 years in Bikaner
30	Sikkim	
31	Tamil Nadu	3
32	Telangana	
33	Tripura	
34	Uttar Pradesh	3
35	Uttarakhand	
36	West Bengal	



APPENDIX: TABLE - 5

COMMON METHOD AND PRACTICE OF SAND MINING IN STATE / UT

S.N	STATE / U.T	COMMON METHOD AND PRACTICE OF SAND MINING
01	Andaman & Nicobar	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Apex Court in its order dated 7.5.2002 in I.A. No. 502 in WP (C) No. 202 of 1995, had directed that extraction of sand be phased out @ minimum 20% per year on reducing balance basis to bring the sand mining to a level of 33% of the present level of mining within a maximum period of five years.2. Since the level of extraction of sand in the territory in the year 2001-02 i.e. the base year. The production in base year was 68909 cumts and the quantity of extractable sand is fixed at 22581 cumts.3. The quantity of sea sand so allowed by MoEF is extracted from the identified and approved sites having such deposits on the sea beaches (identified accreting area) with adequate environmental safeguards so as to prevent any damage to the sensitive coastal eco-system including corals, turtle/ bird nesting sites and the protected areas.4. The allotment of sea sand is made to the individuals by the Sand Allotment Committee constituted by the Lieutenant Governor under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary who also heads the A&N CZMA. The quantum of sea sand allotted is fixed by the Committee on the basis of availability of sea sand and the number of applicants (local) applied for their bonafide use.
02	Andhra Pradesh	
03	Arunachal Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mining of sand restricted to foothills only that too for a very short period. Grant of mining lease is kept in abeyance, short term mining permits are issued to various Central and State agencies for carrying out developmental works under the strict supervision of the departmental officers.
04	Assam	
05	Bihar	
06	Chandigarh	
07	Chhattisgarh	
08	Dadar Nagar Haveli	
09	Daman & Diu	
10	NCT of Delhi	
11	Goa	
12	Gujarat	
13	Haryana	
14	Himachal Pradesh	Manual. The mining lease areas are sanctioned on the river bed if the area is approved in survey document. The mining activities are allowed strictly in accordance with the approved working cum Environment Management Plan and after the environment clearance.
15	Jammu & Kashmir	
16	Jharkhand	Manual
17	Karnataka	Manual
18	Kerala	
19	Lakshadweep	
20	Madhya Pradesh	Manual
21	Maharashtra	
22	Manipur	
23	Meghalaya	Hill quarrying in private areas
24	Mizoram	Extraction of sand limited mainly for domestic purpose in the state. The produce extracted illegally is seized as per the Mizoram Forest Act, 1955. Mining is only limited to river banks and riverbeds with improvised equipments like spade, shovel, small canoes, etc.
25	Nagaland	
26	Odisha	
27	Puducherry	Manual
28	Punjab	
29	Rajasthan	Manual. In Rajasthan sand is available in seasonal streams and rivers except Chambal which is perennial but mining is banned because of Chambal Crocodile Sanctuary. Mining is done up to 3 meters and is open cast. It is filled in trucks either manually or semi mechanized method. In Bikaner no river exists and mining for sand is being done from palaeo-channel. In this palaeo-channel the sand deposit occurs at the depth of 5 meter to 20 meter below ground level with an over burden of 5 to 20 meters. The mining here is done open cast benching method, where overlying blown sand, gravel, pebble etc. is removed, the sand is further sieved, graded and washed upto 12 to 18 mesh size.
30	Sikkim	
31	Tamil Nadu	Manual mining is carried out in certain quarries. In most of the sand quarries two poclains are used by the PWD.
32	Telangana	
33	Tripura	
34	Uttar Pradesh	Manual and Semi-mechanised
35	Uttarakhand	
36	West Bengal	



APPENDIX: TABLE - 6

SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING BY STATE / UT

S.N	STATE / U.T	SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING
01	Andaman & Nicobar	The quantum of extractable sand fixed at 22581 cubic meter should be enhanced. This limit has been fixed by the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court subject to study by National Institute of Oceanography.
02	Andhra Pradesh	
03	Arunachal Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For environmentally sustainable sand mining a strict and comprehensive sand mining policy need to be framed.2. River sand is becoming a scarce commodity and hence exploring alternative to it has become imminent. Manufactured sand is a good alternative both for fine as well as coarse sand used in concrete.3. Sand mining should be restricted to surface collection only without the use of heavy machinery.4. Due to turbulent and inaccessible nature of rivers flowing in the hilly terrains of the state, deposition of the sand in the river bed is very negligible and except for few quarries in the foothills and plains, most of the notified quarries are boulders and mining of sand is very negligible.5. In view of environment related issues the grant of mining lease for river bed minor mineral viz. sand, gravel, shingle, aggregate, boulder are kept in abeyance and extraction of these minerals is regulated only by grant of mining permits, that too not exceeding 3000 cubic meter in one permit.6. For scientific mining of sand and other minor minerals guidelines has been prepared and accordingly Geo-Technical Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of ADC/SDO in the district level to determine the quantity of quarriable mineral that can be safely removed and also to give technical clearance for notification of quarries of smaller size, preferably within one hectare.
04	Assam	
05	Bihar	
06	Chandigarh	
07	Chhattisgarh	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. While attempting to prepare a model guideline / policy for the country, the differences that exist in different states may be taken into account. It may be tried to take all stakeholders along.2. To ease the process of EC granting, SEIAA may have benches across the State with each bench having a SEAC under it. Time bound clearance with ease of access and grant.3. Sand mining with use of machinery should be allowed.4. Road construction material like murrum should be exempted from EC considering their local / pocket occurrences and impossibility of obtaining EC.5. Considering the traffic issue at urban areas and to reduce intermediaries like storage point dealers, night mining with adequate lighting should be allowed.6. To make the availability of sand from local rivulet / streams the river bank to in-stream mine area distance should be reduced from 10 meter to 3 meters.
08	Dadar Nagar Haveli	
09	Daman & Diu	
10	NCT of Delhi	
11	Goa	
12	Gujarat	
13	Haryana	
14	Himachal Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Working cum Environment Management Plan has been made mandatory. The mining activities are allowed after submission of environment clearance.2. In compliance of order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.02.2012 in Deepak Kumar case, the Himachal Pradesh has repealed its rules called the Himachal Pradesh Minor Mineral (Concession) and Mineral (Prevention of illegal mining, transportation and Storage) Rule, 2015 in accordance to the recommendation of the Ministry of Environment & Forest and rules circulated by the Ministry of Mines. Hence the State of Himachal Pradesh has complied with the above directions of the Hon'ble Apex Court, therefore the condition of applicability of Environment Clearance on the area less than 5 hectare shall be exempted.3. Further keeping in view, the peculiar topography, geography and socio-economic fabric of the State, the condition for the minimum size of the lease should be exempted as the rivers are in youth stage forming different land forms, land holdings are less, population is thin and scattered and the demand of minor mineral is limited, which could be met out locally by exploiting local resources on the small scale.
15	Jammu & Kashmir	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Uniform guideline be framed for sand mining and river bed mining as they cannot be segregated.2. Identification of sand belts be made in consultation with CGWB and while framing guidelines CGWB may be taken on board.3. Sand mining leases less than 5 hectare be exempted from EC and comprehensive policy may be made for hilly states for easing the process of grant of lease.

... contd.



APPENDIX: TABLE – 6 ... contd

Suggestions / Recommendations for Environmentally Sustainable Sand Mining by State / UT

S.N	STATE / U.T	SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING
16	Jharkhand	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Machine should not be used in sand mining. Only manual mining should be done.2. The depth of mining shall be restricted to 3 meter / water level whichever is less.3. No mining should be carried out in proximity of any bridge / embankment.4. In-stream mining should not be allowed.5. Mining should be done in accordance with an approved mining plan.6. EC should be valid for settlement period subject to ceiling of five years.
17	Karnataka	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Undertaking sand mining activity through a Government agency to be governed by District Level Sand Monitoring Committee headed by Deputy Commissioner.2. The area should be properly surveyed and mapped with the help of GPS to assign geo coordinates and accordingly erect boundary pillars so as to avoid illegal and unscientific mining.3. Depth of sand available may be indicated in a contour map using suitable drilled holes to ensure sand mining do not exceed one meter depth.4. Once thickness is established sand mining may be permitted to one meter depth where the thickness of sand is more than three meter deep. If the thickness of sand is less than three meter, sand mining shall not be permitted.5. Sufficient spacing shall be ensured from one block to another block and sufficient time gap shall be provided for replenishment before undertaking mining activity in the same block.6. Mining activity shall be restricted to only non-monsoon season and in the area that is exposed.7. No in-stream mining shall be permitted.8. No stream should be diverted for the purpose of sand mining. No natural water course and/ or water resources are obstructed due to mining operations.9. Site specific plan with eco-restoration should be in place.10. Sand mining shall be undertaken only by manual method without use of earth moving equipment such as JCB etc. Use of mechanized boats for sucking sand from in-stream area shall be strictly prohibited.11. Appropriate safety zones shall be maintained in proximity to any bridge / and / or embankment and other permanent structures. No sand mining shall be undertaken in such safety / buffer zones. Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Mines in this regard shall also be adhered to.12. The quarrying activity shall not intersect subterranean water level and ground water table.13. The top soil in case of surface land mining shall be stored temporarily in an earmarked site and concurrently used for land reclamation.14. Use of alternate material such as M-sand in place of natural river sand shall be encouraged in order to reduce stress on natural eco-system.
18	Kerala	
19	Lakshadweep	
20	Madhya Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Geographical location of the state should be taken care of.2. Keep provision for extraction of sand from forest areas.3. Expedite the EC process.4. In inter-state boundary leases sand mining EC be given by the SEIAA.5. Clear guideline for B-1, B2 be issued.6. Simplify cluster cases.7. Exempt mining leases of less than 5 hectare from EC.
21	Maharashtra	
22	Manipur	
23	Meghalaya	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No sand mining within 3 kilometer from Protected area and Reserved Forest area.2. Advance royalty etc for entire quantity of mineral be realized in full.3. Only loose boulder and sand are allowed to be removed from the mid river stream leaving 15 meter on either side untouched.4. No collection of sand is allowed on 15 meter of either side of structures like bridge, culvert etc.5. No blasting allowed.6. No extraction of stone / boulder / sand in landslide prone areas.7. No stacking allowed on road side along national highways.8. No felling of tree near quarry is allowed.9. No transportation of forest produce (sand from forest area) is allowed after sunset.10. Export fee realized if sand is sent outside the state.11. Stone crusher cannot be installed without permission of DFO.12. Tree should be planted at quarry after completion of mining.13. Violation of above conditions will result in cancellation of permit and forfeiture of advance royalty already paid.
24	Mizoram	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Extraction of sand from the forest may be permitted strictly as per mining plan approved by the Competent Authority and after getting necessary clearance under various acts related to the forest and environment.
25	Nagaland	

... contd.



APPENDIX: TABLE – 6 ...contd

Suggestions / Recommendations for Environmentally Sustainable Sand Mining by State / UT

S.N	STATE / U.T	SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING
26	Odisha	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EC may be exempted for leases less than 5 hectare.2. EC should not be required for earth mining.3. Minor minerals even close to inter-state borders should be allowed to be cleared by the SEIAA.4. In case a river is forming boundary of states and mechanized mining of sand is causing tension in states it should be resolved at the national level.
27	Puducherry	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Environment Clearance is issued by SEIAA, Puducherry strictly under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments.
28	Punjab	
29	Rajasthan	<p>The bajari mined out from river bed is filled back by the river itself during the next rainy season. So, nature itself reclaims the mined out area every year. The formation of bajari is a natural process in the river and it is also essential to remove bajari from the river bed to avoid silting. If the sand deposited in the river bed is not removed, it may cause change of river course and may also results in flood plains will be developed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Price control system adopted in Rajasthan. Sand is a essential commodity.2. The depth of mining should be restricted to 3 meters or above water table.3. Machinery having boom height more than 3 meter shall not be allowed in extraction of bajari.4. Size of mining leases be allowed below 5 hectare.5. In streams with low deposit of sand and if use is mostly local no mechanized mining should be allowed and EC should not be required.6. In larger deposits there should be semi-mechanised mining with EC. <p>The sand (river and stream) in different categories, with their availability, use and size of the deposit.</p> <p>Category A: Small deposits in river and stream where thickness of sand bed is very less and sand is used locally in villages and towns only and no mechanical mining is done, in such areas restriction of obtaining Environment Clearance can be relaxed for manual mining.</p> <p>Category B: Large deposits, where in rivers and streams having thickness of sand bed is medium to large, sand mining, shall be allowed with semi mechanized manner after obtaining Environment Clearance.</p> <p>Bikaner District: Bikaner district is a desert terrain where ground water table is very deep. Bajari is excavated above water table and it does not affect the water table. In addition to this boulder, gravel and waste generated due to bajari mining is used in reclamation of pits. Hence environment is not adversely affected due to bajari mining.</p>
30	Sikkim	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Forest department is the nodal department for sand and stone extraction from the riverbed.2. Use of machines is prohibited.3. Quarrying sites are allotted to village youth cooperatives.4. For bigger companies quarry sites in forest area are allotted after FC.5. State Government has considerations for allotment of quarries for Border Road Organization and MoD.6. GoI can monitor mining in states through GIS.
31	Tamil Nadu	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Excess sand deposits identified in the flood plains and in-stream areas only to be mined in order to safeguard and maintain ground water table.2. Sand mining operation has to be carried out between 6 am to 7 pm.3. Mining operation should be carried out in a systematic manner without affecting environment and ecology of the area.
32	Telangana	
33	Tripura	
34	Uttar Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Depth of mining cannot be more than 3 meter or water table whichever is less.2. Mining can be done in slices forming benches where bench height cannot be more than 1 meter and bench width cannot be less than 10 meter.3. A width of not less than 50 meter or 10% width of river can be restricted for mining activities from river bank. A condition can be imposed that mining will be done from river activities from river bank.4. SEIAA should be decentralized to expedite EC process. It can be decentralized to district or zonal level.5. Make EC conditions practical.6. Requirement of mining plan in river bed mining be done away with.7. There should not be requirement of EC for short term permit.8. The quantity of sand should not be fixed in EC as it leads to loss in revenue and illegal mining.9. Semi-mechanised form of sand mining be allowed.10. Sand mining to be exempted from EC as it takes 6-8 months and environment department do not have requisite work force to enforce EC conditions. A guideline for environmentally sustainable sand mining be framed and it can be complied by imposing it in the lease condition.
35	Uttarakhand	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Area less than 5 hectare be exempted from EC.2. Use of machine be allowed for scientific mining and reducing the cost of production.3. RBM deposition in the lease should not be fixed for the entire lease period. RBM in lease area be assessed after rains every year.4. 70% of leases in state not operating for want of EC and these vacant lots are source of illegal mining.
36	West Bengal	



APPENDIX: TABLE – 7

BEST PRACTICE OF SAND MINING ADOPTED IN ANY DISTRICT IN STATE / UT

S.N	STATE / U.T	DESCRIPTION OF BEST PRACTICES
01	Andaman & Nicobar	Institute of Ocean Management has been entrusted the task of identification of sand accreting sites.
02	Andhra Pradesh	
03	Arunachal Pradesh	Mining of sand is restricted to foothills only that too for a very short period.
04	Assam	
05	Bihar	
06	Chandigarh	
07	Chhattisgarh	
08	Dadar Nagar Haveli	
09	Daman & Diu	
10	National Capital Territory of Delhi	
11	Goa	
12	Gujarat	
13	Haryana	
14	Himachal Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The mining activities on river beds are allowed strictly as per the provisions of river / stream bed mining policy as under.2. No river / stream bed mining shall be allowed without the recommendation of the Sub Divisional Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Sub Divisional Magistrate having XEN PWD, Irrigation and Public Health, SPCB, DFO and Mining Officer as its member.3. Nor river / stream bed mining shall be allowed within 75 meter from the periphery of soil conservation works, nursery plantations, check dams or within the distance as recommended by the Sub-Divisional Committee whichever is more.4. No river / stream bed mining shall be allowed within 1/10th of its span or 5 meters from the banks or as specified by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, whichever is more.5. Nor river / stream bed mining shall be allowed within 200 meters upstream and downstream of water supply scheme or as specified by the Committee whichever is more.6. Nor river / stream bed mining shall be allowed within 200 meters upstream and 200 to 500 meters downstream of bridges depending upon the site specific conditions.7. No approach road from PWD road shall be allowed to lease area unless lessee / contractor obtains written permission from XEN, PWD for making road leading to all intake places from the PWD road.8. No boulders/ cobbles/ hand broken road ballast shall be allowed to be transported outside the State from river/stream beds.9. No digging for more than 3 feet shall be allowed in river/ stream beds.10. No blasting shall be allowed in river/stream beds.
15	Jammu & Kashmir	
16	Jharkhand	
17	Karnataka	
18	Kerala	
19	Lakshadweep	
20	Madhya Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In some districts the Cooperative Societies of Labour are doing the sand collection, loading and unloading work.
21	Maharashtra	
22	Manipur	
23	Meghalaya	
24	Mizoram	
25	Nagaland	
26	Odisha	
27	Puducherry	
28	Punjab	
29	Rajasthan	
30	Sikkim	
31	Tamil Nadu	Permission has been granted in favour of PWD for quarrying sand in the river Poramboke lands in 16 districts in the state of Tamil Nadu. Sand mining is being carried out by the PWD in the entire State.
32	Telangana	
33	Tripura	
34	Uttar Pradesh	U.P. Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1963.
35	Uttarakhand	
36	West Bengal	



APPENDIX: TABLE – 8

STATUS OF PROMULGATION OF RULE ON SAND MINING IN THE STATE / UT

S.N	STATE / U.T	NAME OF RULE WITH YEAR OF PROMULGATION
01	Andaman & Nicobar	Indian Forest Act, 1927 as sand has been included as forest produce.
02	Andhra Pradesh	
03	Arunachal Pradesh	APMMCR 2002 and made effective from 1.01.2003
04	Assam	
05	Bihar	
06	Chandigarh	
07	Chhattisgarh	
08	Dadar Nagar Haveli	
09	Daman & Diu	
10	National Capital Territory of Delhi	
11	Goa	
12	Gujarat	
13	Haryana	
14	Himachal Pradesh	1. River/Stream bed Mining Policy-2004. 2. Himachal Pradesh Minor Mineral Policy-2013. 3. Himachal Pradesh Minor Mineral (Concession) and Mineral (Prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage) Rule, 2015.
15	Jammu & Kashmir	
16	Jharkhand	Rule 12 of Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rule 2014.
17	Karnataka	Karnataka Sand Policy was brought out in the year 2011 and as such amendment to the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rule 1994 were made in the year 2011 and a separate chapter IV B for sand mining was introduced under Rule 31-R. Further, as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court orders sated 27.02.2012 in SLP No. 19628-19629 between Deepak Kumar and State of Haryana and others and as per the model guidelines issued by the Government of India for Environmental Management of Mining of Minor Minerals, amendment to the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concessions Rule 1994 were brought out on 16.12.2013 incorporating a new chapter II A applicable to all minor minerals on Systematic, Scientific Mining and Protection of Environment, wherein Quarrying Plan, Environmental Management Plan and Environment Clearance was made mandatory. Amendments to Rule 31- R were also made wherein the Government, PWD Department was entrusted with sand mining, storage and transportation, under the District Sand Monitoring Committee and Taluk Sand Monitoring Committee.
18	Kerala	
19	Lakshadweep	
20	Madhya Pradesh	Rules have been framed as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court for sand mining under M.P. Minor Mineral Rules 1996 and Sand Mining Policy 2015 is also formulated in the State.
21	Maharashtra	
22	Manipur	
23	Meghalaya	No rules notified by the state on sand mining
24	Mizoram	Mizoram Forest Act, 1955, which came into force on 1.01.1956.
25	Nagaland	
26	Odisha	
27	Puducherry	Puducherry Minor Minerals (Concession) Rules, 1977.
28	Punjab	
29	Rajasthan	RMMCR, 1986 Notification dated 2.11.2012: 1. First proviso of Rule 8(2) and first proviso of 17 (1) – Renewal of Bajari Mining Leases is not allowed. 2. Rule 16 (3) – Mining Leases of Bajari to be granted for 5 years. 3. Rule 18 (18) – Part surrender of lease area of Bajari not allowed. Notification dated 3.4.2013 – (First proviso Rule 7 (1)- Mining leases of Bajari to be granted only by way of tender or auction. Notification dated 12.07.2013 – (First proviso Rule 11 (2)) – Maximum area limit of 10 sq. km. not applicable for Bajari Mining Leases. Bikaner District: Chapter II of RMMCR, 1986 (last amended 12.07.2013).
30	Sikkim	Sikkim Forest (Allotment of Areas for Quarrying of Sand and Stone), 2006.

... contd.



APPENDIX: TABLE – 8 ... contd.

STATUS OF PROMULGATION OF RULE ON SAND MINING IN THE STATE / UT

S.N	STATE / U.T	NAME OF RULE WITH YEAR OF PROMULGATION
31	Tamil Nadu	<p>1. As per G.O. Ms. No. 95 Industries (MMCI) Department dated 1.10.2003, a new Rule 38 A has been introduced in the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959. Accordingly quarrying and sale of sand is being carried out by PWD in the state of Tamil Nadu since October 2003.</p> <p>2. As per G.O. Ms. No. 158 Industries (MMIC) Department dated 25.08.2008, a new Rule 38 B has been introduced in the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959. Accordingly transportation of sand outside the state not to be made.</p> <p>To regulate storage and transportation of sand a new Rule 38 C B has been introduced in the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 vide G.O. No. 32 Industries (MMIC) Department dated 11.02.2011.</p>
32	Telangana	
33	Tripura	
34	Uttar Pradesh	
35	Uttrakhand	
36	West Bengal	