

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: August, 2024

To

Addl. Chief Secretaries (Forests)/Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State Government/UT Administrations

Sub: Restraining the quarrying of river bed material/sand mining from the forest areas during monsoon period suggested by the Indian Meteorological Department – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Uttarakhand's letter dated 17.05.24, requesting the Ministry to extend the permission of sand mining till the June month of every year instead of existing permission allowed up to May month of every year in respect of sand mining leases located in the forest areas. In this connection it is to inform that the matter was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 04.07.2024. The detailed minutes of the said meeting may be accessed on the website of this Ministry at www.parivesh.nic.in.

Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government, with regards to the sand mining in the forest areas during the monsoon period, hereby clarifies the following:

- i. No mining operations should be carried out during the monsoon period and to assess the duration of Monsoon in a particular State/UT, the meteorological data of the India Meteorological Department, Government of India shall be referred by the concerned authorities.
- ii. The validity of sand quarrying operations, as stipulated in the approvals granted by the Ministry under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in the past stands modified to the extent as mentioned in the condition (i), as stated above.
- iii. The State Government and Union territory Administrations shall adhere to the provisions of the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 issued by the Ministry to ensure sustainable sand quarrying from the rivers beds in the forest areas.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority of the Ministry.

Yours Faithfully

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. PCCF & HoFF, all States/ Union territories Administrations
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), all Regional Offices of MoEF&CC

3. The Nodal Officer (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), all States/ Union territories Administration
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. Guard File.