



राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन National Mission for Clean Ganga

File No. TE-16015/16/2020-O/o AD(RD Tech) NMCG

Government of India

National Mission for Clean Ganga

Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
Ministry of Jal Shakti

1st Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium
India Gate, New Delhi- 110 001

Dated: 2nd September, 2020

To

The Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110 003

Subject: Issue of sand mining in Uttarakhand and in particular the stretch on Ganga river from Raiwala to Bhogpur

Sir,

The issue of sand mining in Uttarakhand and in particular the stretch on Ganga river from Raiwala to Bhogpur has been a cause of concern with several reports being received periodically of illegal mining harming the morphology and hydrology of the river Ganga.

2. An Expert Committee was constituted by NMCG vide OM dated 14.01.2020 to provide scientific view on matters pertaining to illegal sand mining in Ganga river in Haridwar, Uttarakhand and suggest guidelines for sustainable sand mining. The Committee consists of expert from multiple discipline viz., Prof. Rajiv Sinha, IIT-Kanpur; Shri Suresh Babu, WWF-India; Dr. Syed Hussain, WII and representatives from CPCB, cGanga and State Government of Uttarakhand. As a part of this, experts from IIT, Kanpur carried out studies for estimation of impact of sand mining between Raiwala to Bhogpur on the Ganga river and have submitted their report recently. A copy of the report is placed below.

3. The expert team had divided the entire 32 km stretch into 16 reaches of 2 km each and took up assessment of sand mining and its impact on river using remote sensing inputs, satellite images, field surveys using DRONE technology and inputs from the State Government. Four reaches (1,2,3 & 4) are found to be in Reserve Forest area. In six reaches (11,12,13,14,15 & 16), the Committee has clearly recommended that these reaches are not suitable for mining and it is not advisable to take up mining. In three stretches (8,9 & 10), it has been advised to undertake strategic mining only carefully ensuring that the rate of extraction matches replenishment. In three stretches (5,6 & 7) some river training works has been recommended.

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4. The expert team has also observed that there are several tributaries on the river Ganga flowing through Uttarakhand where it is important to take a wholesome stock of the status of mining activity in the entire state and assess the impact on river morphology and ecology to evolve a long-term strategy.

5. The report has also recommended that all ecological hotspots along the river should be avoided for sand mining irrespective of their regime. The first level zoning of all such habitats must be carried out before planning the sand mining activities and these areas should be excluded from the plans.

6. Historically also the area around Bhimgauda Barrage in Haridwar was prohibited for removal of boulders and any other bed material from river. The Notification issued in 1952 prohibit removal of boulders and other bed materials from, the course of the Ganga River 6 miles upstream and 6 miles down-stream of Bhimgoda Weir in full River width nugging the hills on the left and the guage pillar at Raiwala, the towns of Haridwar and Kankhal and the Ajitpur Bund on the right along with two furlong length (402.34 m) of each of the tributaries joining the river in this reach, from their junction with river.

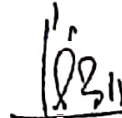
7. In view of the above it is requested that the following four ECs issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) for sand mining needs to be reviewed and the EC issued for this stretch may be revoked till a detailed assessment and review is taken up:

- i) F.No. J-11015/371/2012-IA.II(M) dated 23rd March 2020
- ii) F.No. J-11015/368/2012-IA.II(M) dated 23rd March 2020
- iii) F.No. J-11015/369/2012-IA.II(M) dated 8th April 2020
- iv) F.No. J-11015/372/2012-IA.II(M) dated 10th April 2020

8. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Encl; As above

yours faithfully.



(D.P. Mathuria)

Executive Director (Technical)

Copy to kind information to;

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti
2. PPS to Secretary , Dept of WR, RD & GR