

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.833
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th NOVEMBER, 2009

REMOVAL OF SAND FROM RIVER IN TAMIL NADU

833. DR. K. MALAISAMY:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the indiscriminate removal of sand in abundance from rivers in Tamilnadu with the consent and connivance of authorities by the ruling party men and earning lot of ill-gotten money besides leading to hampering the sub-soil water table and permanent damage to underground water potential: and
- (b) if so, the measures that are taken to protect the natural resource and the interest of public?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES,
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a)&(b) No Sir. Indiscriminate removal of sand from rivers is not being done in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu is providing sand to the people for the purpose of construction activities through a single point department that is Public Works Department (PWD), with effect from 02.10.2003 to control indiscriminate sand quarrying by private agencies. The sand quarrying operations are done by the PWD, with the prior approval of the District Collectors after considering all the related issues to protect natural resources and to protect the interest of public. Sand quarrying is done from rivers at very shallow depths (less than 1m) without affecting the river flow and regime and ensuring environmental protection carefully. In effect, sand movement through littoral drift is only quarried and subsoil water table and the ground water potential are in no way affected.
