

F. No. J-11015/259/2013-IA.II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 2nd January, 2017

To,

**Lessee Shri Shekhawat Associates,
226, Jasawant Nagar,
Khatipura Road, Jaipur,
Rajasthan-311001.**

Sub.: River Sand Mining with production capacity of 42 Lakh TPA Sand by M/s Shekhawat Associates located near 26 revenue Village Viz. Dhuwala, Bagudaar, Kesharpura, Keshavvilas, Modhopura and others, Tehsil-Jahajpur, District – Bhilwara, State- Rajasthan (1299.0 ha)-Environmental Clearance regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to the above mentioned EC proposal for mining of River Sand/Bajri (Minor Mineral) in the State of Rajasthan. The Proposal of EC was earlier appraised before the Expert Appraisal Committee in its meeting held during May 27-29, 2015.

2. The matter was examined in the Ministry w.r.t. replenishment study and noted that the Ministry has issued the terms of reference and inter-alia mentioned a condition that the Project Proponent shall conduct a detailed replenishment study and submit the report along with the EIA/EMP. However, the Project Proponent has made a theoretical study based on Dendy Bolton's Replenishment Formula. In view of the above, the Ministry requested the EAC to recommend the amount of production on yearly basis based on a duly conducted scientific replenishment study before recommending Environmental Clearance. Accordingly the proposal to discuss the replenishment study issues related to sand/bajri mining projects have been re-considered before the EAC meeting held during October 24-25, 2016.

3. The Committee deliberated the issues and opined that Replenishment of the sand is a natural process in the perennial rivers. The sand moves along with the water streams and is deposited in the void created in the mined out areas. Replenishment rates vary depending on nature of watershed, nature of soil and rainfall etc. and mining beyond the natural replenishment rate results into damage of river bed leading to adverse environmental consequences. Mining proposals under the category of river mining are received for Environmental Clearance mainly from States such as Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Bihar and Rajasthan. Analysis of these proposals reveal that the proposals of sand mining from Rajasthan are not in perennial rivers. These are, in effect, paleo sand deposits and are not replenished annually during monsoon season. The mined out areas are not replenished adequately and may turn into permanent depressions.

4. The Committee noted that the EIA/EMP reports on sand mining proposals estimate replenishment rates based on theoretical Dendy-Boltan formula and not on actual replenishment studies. The Dendy- Boltan formula is not very useful to estimate replenishment rates at a particular stretch of a river and its application to cases such as those of Rajasthan, where rivers are not perennial, is even more problematic. In view of the above, there is a need, therefore, to treat the river sand mining proposals from Rajasthan differently from those of other States. **The Committee deliberated the issues w.r.t. replenishment study and is of the view that in case of Sand/Bajri mining projects from the State of Rajasthan, Project Proponents shall first conduct a scientific replenishment study and submit the report before the EAC for further consideration of amount of production for mining of sand/bajri on yearly basis. Therefore, the Committee deferred all such sand/bajri mining proposals of State of Rajasthan.**

5. The matter was examined in the Ministry and the undersigned is hereby directed to request you to kindly conduct a scientific replenishment study and submit the report to the Ministry for further consideration before the EAC.

Yours faithfully,


(Surendra Kumar)
Director

Tele-fax: 011-24695304

Copy to:

1. **The Secretary**, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Rajasthan, Secretariat, Jaipur
2. **The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests**, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office (CZ), Kendriya Bhawan, 5th Floor, Sector "H", Aliganj, Lucknow-226020.
3. **Guard File**
4. **MoEFCC website**


(Surendra Kumar)
Director