

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.7.2018

EXPORT OF MINERAL SAND

236. SHRI PR.SENTHIL NATHAN:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYA BAMA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued licenses for the State run Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and private companies in Tamil Nadu to have long term and short term mining leases for exploiting and quarrying mineral sand and semi precious stone like Garnet, Amethyst and Beryl in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total estimated volume and value of mineral sand in Indian rupees and semi precious stones mined during the last three years in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether the Government has fixed any specific norms and rules for export of mineral sand from the State; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the quantity and value of exported mineral sand during each of the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND COAL (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (b): As per the information provided by State Government of Tamil Nadu licences/leases have been granted to both central/ State owned PSUs and private companies for quarrying of Mineral sand like Silica sand, Heavy Mineral sand and river sand. No mining leases were granted for semiprecious stone like Garnet, Amethyst and Beryl in the State of Tamil Nadu so far. With regard to Silica sand, the State Government have granted mining leases for state owned PSU viz., TAMIN and private companies/ individuals for quarrying Silica sand in the state. In respect of Heavy Mineral Sand, the State Government have granted mining leases for both Government of India owned PSU viz. IREL and private companies/Individuals for mining Garnet sand, illmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Sillimanite, Leucoxene, Monazite. In respect of river sand, the State Government in the Public Works Department is authorized for quarrying and sale of sand w.e.f 02.10.2003 and accordingly Rule 38-A has been introduced to the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 vide G.O.Ms.No.95 Industries, Department, dated 01.10.2003. The leases are granted to PWD by the concerned District Collectors. The details of existing mining leases for Mineral sand are as follows:

Sl. No.	Mineral sand	No. of leases granted to			Total	Leases under Operation	Leases under Non-operation
		Central owned PSUs	State owned PSUs	Private Companies/ Individuals			
1.	River sand	-	37*	-	37	12	25
2.	Silica sand	-	3**	21	21	-	21
3.	Garnet sand, Illmenite, Rutile, Zircon etc	3	1	77	81	3	78 [@]

* Public Works Department, the State Government Department.

**Leases were granted to State owned PSU, TAMIN which expired during 2017-18.

@ Stopped due to allegations of illegal mining and the matter is sub-judice.

(c) : As per the information provided by State Government of Tamil Nadu, the total estimated volume and value of mineral sand in Indian rupees and semiprecious stones mined during the last three years in Tamil Nadu is as under:

Sl. No.	Mineral sand	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
		Production (tonnes)	Royalty realised (in Rs)	Production (tonnes)	Royalty realised (in Rs)	Production (tonnes)	Royalty realised (in Rs)
1.	Silica sand	132764	11381806	164924	18584021	3000	980800
2.	Garnet sand	9950	3049710	7000	2185848	-	-
3.	Illmenite,	40800	4659297	25250	3773459	-	-
4.	Rutile	850	1034554	1000	966054	-	-
5.	Zircon	2150	3049149	2350	3382631	-	-
6.	Monazite	4	753	3	375	-	-
7.	Leucosene	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Sillimanite	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	River sand*	1083524	91.03	1027715	86.33	841623	70.70

* Production in Lorry loads and Amount in Crores

(d) to (e): With regard to beach sand minerals, the port authorities were requested by the District Collector, Tirunelveli to verify the genuinity of the material to be exported i.e., the source of the mineral mined and the validity of the documents issued by the authorities for transportation of mineral etc., as the beach sand mining operations by private companies/ individuals were stopped from the year 2013 in the state for facilitating inspection on the allegations towards illegal mining and the matter is also subjudice. As per the information available in Indian Minerals Year Book-2017, the quantity and value of exported Mineral sands during each of the last three years are as under:

Sl. No.	Mineral sand	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Value in Rs '000')	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Value in Rs '000')	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Value in Rs '000')
1.	Silica sand	1216	9802	709	6725	1096	8669
2.	Garnet (abrasive)	448559	5673827	480408	5950862	387276	4691843
3.	Sillimanite	17304	141262	15078	110847	14064	114678
