

Phone No.: 03592 206192
Fax No. : 03592 206836



DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SECRETARIAT ROAD, VISHAL GAON, EAST SIKKIM, GANGTOK – 737102

No. 534

Date: 24.12.2020

To,

The Hon'ble Justice A.K. Goel,
Chairperson,
National Green Tribunal,
Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg,
Near India Gate,
New Delhi-110001.

Subject: Compliance status in respect of Sikkim as per the direction of Hon'ble NGT dated 04/ 11/2020 in O.A. No. 726/2018.

Hon'ble Sir,

I am to inform that the administrative control of minor minerals in the State of Sikkim is under Forest and Environment Department and collection of loose sand and boulders from river reserve are practised by following Sikkim Forest (Allotment of Areas for Quarrying of Sand and Stone) Rules, 2006 framed under the Sikkim Forests, Water Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Act, 1988.

It is also informed that the Mines and Geology Department has framed Sikkim Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for regulating the grant of quarry lease, mining leases and other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for the purposes connected therewith.

Further, status of compliance of *SSMMG-2016 AND EMGSM-2020* and details of information of action taken by Forest and Environment Department against the violations reported is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

Submitted for favour of kind information and for such further directions as may be considered necessary.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(B P Pradhan, IFS)

Secretary

Mines & Geology Department
Government of Sikkim



ANNEXURE-I

Compliance status in respect of Sikkim as per the direction of Hon'ble NGT Dated 04/ 11/2020 in O.A. No. 726/2018.

In Sikkim, the administrative control of minor minerals is under Forest and Environment Department and only loose collection of sand and stone is being practised from river reserve as per the Sikkim Forest (Allotment of Areas for Quarrying of Sand and Stone) Rules, 2006 framed under the Sikkim Forests, Water Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Act, 1988.

Since small segregated areas (in square feet only) are allotted for loose collection of sand and stone on yearly basis, all the relevant parameters laid down under Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guideline for Sand Mining 2020 are being followed. The list of applicable parameters and their compliance status are given below:

Sl. No.	Parameters for sustainable loose collection of sand and stone from river reserve	Status of compliance
1.	District Survey Report	Complied.
2.	Geo-tagging of loose sand and stone collection sites	Complied.
3.	Monitoring through transit permit during transportation	Complied.
4.	Physical inspection of the sites on regular basis.	Complied.
5.	Monitoring by State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim on regular basis.	Complied.

The Department of Mines and Geology shall be conducting replenishment study along two major river system of the state in collaboration with Forest and Environment Department, District Administration and stakeholders during 2021-22.

The details of action taken by Forest and Environment Department against User Agencies for collection of sand and stone in violation of existing rules has been compiled and given below:

Illegal Activities during collection of loose sand and stone	Compensation Realised
i) Collection from unallotted areas ii) Use of mechanical means for collection	As per the record, compensation amounting to Rs. 44.28 lakhs (Rupees Forty four lakhs and twenty eight thousand only) has been realised w.e.f. February 2019 till August 2020.