

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.18 of 2026 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mr. Gandluru Veera Reddy & two others ... Applicants

Versus

Union of India, Rep. by Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, and 6 Others . Respondent(s)

REPORT OF SEIAA, STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FILED BY RESPONDENT NO.2

Date: 03.02.2026



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It is certified that all the documents contained in the above annexure are true copies.

Date: 03.02.2026.


**Member Secretary
SEIAA, AP**

Report of SEIAA, A.P in Original Application.No.18 of 2026 filed before the Hon'ble
NGT(SZ), Chennai

It is respectfully submitted that Sri Gandluru Veerareddy has filed O.A.No.18 of 2026 before the Hon'ble NGT(SZ), Chennai regarding alleged rampant illegal sand mining carried out since 22.01.2026 in the side stream of the Penna River at Sy.No.1044, Kokatam Village, Kamalapuram Mandal, YSR Kadap District.

It is respectfully submitted that, the SEIAA, A.P., has not issued Environmental Clearance for any sand reach in the vicinity of Sy.No.1044, Kokatam Village, YSR Kadap District, Andhra Pradesh.

It is respectfully submitted that the State Pollution Control Board is the Nodal Authority in the State for dealing with cases relating to pollution and environment management falling under the purview of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment Protection Act 1986.

It is respectfully submitted that the State Department of Mines and Geology is the Nodal Authority in the State for allotment of mining leases under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), 1957 and is entrusted with enforcement and regulation of mining operations in the State, including illegal mining. It is further submitted that the State Government is empowered under Section 23 C of the MMDR Act, 1957 to frame rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

It is further respectfully submitted that the Government of Andhra Pradesh, vide G.O.Ms.No.43 dt. 08.07.2024 (**Annexure-I**), notified the New Sand Mining Policy, 2024. Subsequently, vide G.O.Ms. NO.49 dt. 02.09.2024 (**Annexure-II**), the Government issued revised guidelines for

Free Sand Policy prescribing specific measures for monitoring and prevention of illegal sand mining, which inter alia includes the following:

- a) District Level Task Forces (DLTF) should be constituted by the District Collectors with line departments for periodic inspections of all the stockyards and the sand sources to ensure smooth functioning of sand operations and to curb illegal mining/transportation.
- b) A Divisional Level Vigilance & Monitoring committee with RDO/SC, DSP, Divisional Development Officer, DLPO, DE, Irrigation, AD, Mining and Mandal Level monitoring with Tahsildar/MPDO, Irrigation AE, SI shall be constituted to monitoring of Sand transportation.
- c) In case of the vehicles engaged in illegal/ un-authorized excavation in the prohibited areas (i.e., within 500 meters from the Ground water structures, Bridges, Dams, Railway lines and cross drainage structures etc.), transportation of sand outside the State and found transporting sand without valid Sand Waybill /invoice, illegal excavation of sand shall be penalized and the officers authorized to levy, collect penalties etc., are mentioned in the new sand mining policy 2024 and revised guidelines for free sand policy 2024.
- d) Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) shall take necessary action to curb illegal mining/transportation, black marketing, hoarding and cross border transportation of sand by constituting revenue division wise teams and also arranging inter-state check posts.

This report is submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in compliance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Tribunal. The SEIAA, A.P., undertakes to abide by such further directions, as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Vijayawada,
dt:03.02.2026


Member Secretary,
SEIAA, A.P.

Member Secretary
SEIAA, AP

Mines & Minerals – Sand – Withdrawal of existing sand policies i.e., New Sand Mining Policy 2019 and Upgraded Sand policy 2021 and setting up of Interim Mechanism for supply of sand to the consumers without any revenue to Govt., till formulation of Sand Mining Policy, 2024 for the State of Andhra Pradesh - Orders – Issued.

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INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE (MINES-III) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No.43

Dated:08.07.2024

Read the following:

1. Govt. MemoNo.3066/M.II(1)/2016-3, dated 04.03.2016.
2. Govt. Memo No.3066/M-II(1)/2016-12 & 13, dated 11.06.2019
3. G.O. Ms. No. 70, I.I.I & C (MINES-II) Dept, dated 04.09.2019.
4. G.O. Ms. No. 71, I.I.I & C (MINES-II) Dept, dated 04.09.2019.
5. G.O. Ms. No. 72, I.I.I & C (MINES-II) Dept, dated 04.09.2019.
6. G.O. Ms. No. 73, I.I.I & C (MINES-II) Dept, dated 04.09.2019.
7. G.O. Ms. No. 86, I.I.I & C (MINES-II) Dept, dated 11.10.2019.
8. G.O. Ms. No. 99, I.I.I & C (MINES-II) Dept, dated 15.11.2019.
9. G.O. Ms. No. 31, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, dated 09.06.2020.
- 10.G.O. Ms. No. 32, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, dated 25.06.2020.
- 11.Govt. Memo No.MG0SAND/63/2020/M.III, dated 17.07.2020.
12. G.O. Ms. No. 40, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, dated 10.08.2020.
- 13.G.O. Ms. No. 41, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, dated 10.08.2020.
- 14.G.O. Ms. No. 69, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, dated 23.10.2020.
- 15.G.O. Ms. No. 78, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, dated 12.11.2020.
- 16.Govt. Memo No. MG0DMGE/342/M-III/A2/2020, dated 25.11.2020.
- 17.G.O. Ms. No. 5, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, dated 16.02.2021.
- 18.G.O. Ms. No. 25, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, dated 16.04.2021.
- 19.Govt. Memo No. INC01-MG0SAND/6/2021-M-III, dated 15.08.2021.
- 20.Govt. Memo No. INC01-MG0DMGE/294/2021-M-III, dated 17.08.2021.
21. Govt. Memo No. INC01-MG0DMGE/294/2021-M-III, dated 24.11.2021.
- 22.Govt. Memo No. INC01-MG0DMGE/294/2021-M-III, dated 18.02.2022.
- 23.Hon'ble NGT Orders dated 23.03.2023 in O.A. No. 152 of 2021 and O.A. No. 53 of 2022 and in O.A. No. 187 of 2021
- 24.Hon'ble NGT Orders dated 02.08.2023 in O.A. No. 152 of 2021 and O.A. No. 53 of 2022 and in O.A. No. 187 of 2021
- 25.Hon'ble NGT Orders dated 21.02.2024 in M.A. No. 9 of 2023 in O.A. No. 187 of 2021, M.A. No. 10 of 2023 in O.A. No. 53 of 2022, E.A. No. 4 of 2023 in O.A. No. 187 of 2021
- 26.Hon'ble SC Order dated 10.05.2024 in C.A. No. 4091-4093 of 2023
- 27.Hon'ble SC Order dated 16.05.2024 in C.A. No. 4091-4093 of 2023.
28. Minutes of Meeting held by Commissioner & Director of Mines & Geology with the representatives of agencies M/s Prathima Infrastructure Limited and M/s GCKC Projects and Works Pvt Limited, dated 05.07.2024.
29. From the C&DM&G, A.P., INC04-26024/2/2024-SAND SECTION-DMG, dt: 05/07/2024.
- 30.From the Water resources Dept., Memo No. ICD01 -542/2019/ Reforms/ (925528), Dt.0607.2024.
31. From the Learned Advocate General, AP., Opinion No.65/2024, vide letter No.289/2024, Dt. 06.07.2024.

ORDER

In the memo 1st read above, Government have introduced Revised Sand Policy, 2016 making sand available to the public without charging any fee from 02.03.2016.

2. In the memo 2nd read above, Government have issued instructions to withdraw the Free Sand Policy 2016. In the G.O. 3rd read above,

Government have introduced the New Sand Mining Policy, 2019 and in G.Os 4th to 14th read above, Government have issued necessary consequential orders for implementation of the policy.

3. Subsequently, in the G.O. 15th read above, Government have upgraded Sand Policy 2021 and vide G.O.s & Memos 16th to 22nd read above, Government have issued necessary consequential orders for implementation of the policy, including amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1966.

4. While the matter stood thus, Government conducted a thorough review of the existing sand policy (New Sand Mining Policy 2019 and Upgraded Sand policy 2021) and the status of current sand operations in the State and observed that there is an imminent need to improve it by formulating a comprehensive sand policy, 2024 so that the interests of consumers are protected and environmental and other concerns are addressed properly.

5. Accordingly, vide single file 29th read above, Commissioner and Director of Mines & Geology, AP., has submitted a proposal with detailed modalities as an Interim Mechanism for Sand Supply till formulation of Sand Policy, 2024 for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

6. Government, after careful examination of the entire issue, have decided to supply the sand to consumers without charging any revenue share except cost of operations and statutory levies and taxes, duly withdrawing the existing sand policies i.e., New Sand Mining Policy 2019 and Upgraded Sand policy 2021. Accordingly, Govt., in supersession of the orders issued vide G.O.s & Memos 3rd to 22nd read above, hereby set up an Interim Mechanism for Sand Supply till formulation of Sand Policy, 2024 for the State of Andhra Pradesh as detailed hereunder;

I. Preamble

Sand is a basic input for the construction sector, which employs a large number of people, directly and indirectly. Unless the cost of sand is kept under reasonable check, there is likelihood of adverse socio-economic consequences of unemployment, loss of wages and impact on investment climate and industrialization process in the State. It is the obligation of the State Government to ensure that sand, which is an essential ingredient of construction activities such as irrigation works, infrastructure projects, capital buildings, etc., is available at reasonable cost to the consumers.

Therefore, it is necessary in the greater public interest, to take measures to ensure availability of affordable sand to the consumers so as to maintain the pace of infrastructure growth and avoid adverse socio-economic consequences.

II. Objectives

- a) Making sand available to consumers at affordable rates
- b) Transparency and visibility on the sand operations.
- c) Prevention of any scope for illegal sand excavation & transportation through an effective vigilance & monitoring mechanism
- d) Compliance with all environmental regulations and orders issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Hon'ble High Court and Hon'ble NGT, so as to mitigate the environmental impact of sand excavation.

III. Salient Features

A. District Level Sand Committee:

All sand operations at the district level shall be managed & overseen by the District Level Sand Committee (DLSC) comprising of

- a. District Collector: *Chairman*
- b. Superintendent of Police: *Member*
- c. Joint Collector: *Member*

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- d. Sub-Collector/ RDO Concerned - *Member*
 - e. District Enforcement Officer (SEB): *Member*
 - f. District Mines & Geology Officer concerned: *Member Convener*
 - g. District Panchayat Officer: *Member*
 - h. Regional Transport Officer: *Member*
 - i. Dy. Director, Ground Water Dept.: *Member*
 - j. Executive Engineer, Irrigation/River Conservation: *Member*
 - k. Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply: *Member*
 - l. Environmental Engineer, Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board: *Member*
 - m. Any other invitees as suggested by the Chairman.

B. Sand Stocks available in existing depots:

- i. The DLSC shall immediately takeover the sand stocks available in the depots maintained by the private agencies.
- ii. The DLSC shall take all necessary actions, as required, for safeguarding and further disposal of the stocks.

C. De-siltation of Reservoirs / Tank Beds - Identification:

- i. The de-siltation of Major, Medium & Minor Reservoirs and Tanks as defined by the Water Resources Dept., shall be taken up to enhance the storage capacity of the reservoirs and augment Ground Water recharge in Command Areas.
- ii. The following authorities shall identify the de-siltation of reservoirs and intimate to the District Level Sand Committee:
 - a. Major, Medium, Reservoirs – Chief Engineer
 - b. Minor Reservoirs and Tanks – Superintendent Engineer, Water Resources Department of the District.

D. De-siltation of Reservoirs / Tank Beds – Obtaining Clearances & Operations:

- i. Water Resources Dept., (WRD) being the custodian of the rivers, canals and reservoirs shall prepare the Feasibility Report along with Environment Management Plan for undertaking de-siltation activities shall obtain Consent for Establishment / Consent for Operation from APPCB by submitting the CTE and CTO applications in the Single desk Portal which will be considered at Zonal office Level.
- ii. DM&GO shall assist the EE, Water Resources Department in preparation of feasibility report, so as to facilitate in obtaining CTE/ CTO applications from APPCB, along with Environment Management Plan.
- iii. Water Resources Dept., for de-siltation activities taken up by them in the foreshore areas (water spread area at FTL) of Reservoirs / Barrages/ tanks, shall appoint agencies/ boatsman societies for the purpose and DM&GO, with the help of DLSC, shall appoint boatsman societies for de-siltation activities beyond the foreshore areas of Reservoirs/ Barrages/ tanks in river course taken up by Mines & Geology Dept., strictly in compliance with all applicable acts, rules and directions of MOEF&CC, Hon'ble NGT, Hon'ble HC & Hon'ble SC.
- iv. **Chief Engineer** concerned of the Water Resources Dept shall identify contractors for de-siltation of major reservoirs such as Prakasam & Dhawaleswaram Barrages, duly taking all necessary permissions and approvals from all the stakeholders concerned strictly in compliance with all applicable acts, rules and directions of MOEF&CC, Hon'ble NGT, Hon'ble HC & Hon'ble SC.
- v. The de-silted materials, useful for construction activity shall be handed over to the DLSC for further disposal.
- vi. The District Collector shall reimburse the entire cost incurred by the Water Resources Dept., towards obtaining clearances and de-siltation operations from the revenues received from the disposal of sand handed over to DLSC by WRD. strictly in compliance with all applicable acts, rules and directions of MOEF&CC, Hon'ble NGT, Hon'ble HC & Hon'ble SC.

- vii. The District Collector shall extend necessary support for obtaining clearances and undertaking de-siltation operations (including identifying agencies required) and supervise the smooth functioning of the entire de-siltation activities in the respective districts. strictly in compliance with all applicable acts, rules and directions of MOEF&CC, Hon'ble NGT, Hon'ble HC & Hon'ble SC.
- viii. The DLSC shall dispose the sand taken over from the WRD as per the modalities prescribed by the Govt., from time to time. strictly in compliance with all applicable acts, rules and directions of MOEF&CC, Hon'ble NGT, Hon'ble HC & Hon'ble SC.

E. Appointment of Manpower/Other Agencies for Various Activities:

- i. The Chairman, DLSC shall appoint VRO/VRAs/ Gram & Ward Sachivalayam officials or any other official, as deemed fit, as stockyard in-charges for each of the sand depots/desiltation points.
- ii. The stockyard in-charges shall be responsible for smooth functioning of all the activities such as excavation, loading, sales & dispatches, in strict compliance with the sand policy and all applicable acts & rules.
- iii. The Chairman, DLSC shall also appoint agencies/manpower to undertake various activities viz. loading, ramp maintenance, security etc.

F. Fixation of rates of sand:

- i. There shall be no revenue share to the Government under this policy. However, the cost of operations, along with statutory levies & taxes shall be charged on the consumers.
 - a. The cost of operations shall include the expenditure for activities such as excavation, loading, transportation to sale point, ramp maintenance, administrative expenses etc.
 - b. Statutory levies & taxes shall mean Seignorage fee, DMF, MERIT and GST, as applicable.
- ii. DLSC shall fix and notify the amount to be charged at each source i.e., depots/de-siltation points, based on the cost of operations along with statutory levies & taxes.
- iii. The DLSCs shall be authorized to modify these rates, wherever necessary, taking into consideration the changes in operating costs/ levies & taxes from time to time.

G. Sales & Dispatch:

- i. The details of all the depots/desiltation points (referred as "stockyard") such as location, available quantity, notified charges shall be displayed in DMG Website (www.mines.ap.gov.in) on a daily basis to inform the public.
- ii. The consumers requiring sand shall be required to go to their desired stockyard to purchase sand.
- iii. At the stockyard, the stockyard in-charge shall
 - a. Collect all relevant details of the consumer such as Aadhaar number., Mobile number, Delivery Address, Vehicle Number.
 - b. Collect the notified charges through digital mode (i.e., UPI) and issue sale receipt/invoice to the consumer.
 - c. Allot sand to the consumers on first-come first-serve basis and oversee the loading of sand into the vehicle.
- iv. The dispatch permits shall be issued manually on the secured stationary as an immediate measure.
- v. The stockyard in-charges shall ensure that the stockyards operate only from 6 AM to 6 PM.
- vi. They shall further reconcile the sand dispatches made during the day and upload the daily dispatch data on the online portal developed by DMG by 8 PM every day.

H. Transportation:

- i. The consumers shall make their own transportation arrangements for transporting sand from stockyard to destination.
 - a. To facilitate this, the list of transporters operating at various locations shall be provided on the website of DMG.

- b. Transporters shall⁷ be able to register themselves on the DMG website, along with relevant details (vehicle details, contact number, area of operation etc.).
- ii. DLSC shall notify the maximum transportation charges to be collected, based on vehicle type/capacity etc.
- iii. The transportation charges from stockyard to the consumer's destination shall be paid by the consumer directly to the transporter.
- iv. DLSC shall ensure water spraying of sand carried in the vehicles and also covering of sand transport vehicles with tarpaulin sheets, to avoid spillage and dust emissions during the transportation.

I. Revenue & Expenditure:

- i. In each district, a Joint Account of District Collector and District Mines & Geology Officer shall be opened, with online banking facility.
- ii. All financial transactions related to sand operations, including sand receipts and operating expenses, shall be made through the Joint Account
- iii. The receipts from sand supplies shall be used only to meet the expenditure related to sand operations such as cost of approvals, manpower, payments to contractors, administrative and other incidental expenses.
- iv. No expenditure, other than those related to sand operations shall be met through the receipts from sand supplies, except with the approval of the Government.
- v. The DLSC of each district shall reconcile the receipts and expenditure incurred on a monthly basis and submit the statements to DMG, who shall consolidate the data of all districts and submit to the State Government.
- vi. The DLSC, with assistance of the DMG, shall put in place mechanism to ensure compliance with GST regulations.

J. Digital Enablement

- i. Availability of sand at stockyards and sand sources shall be digitised to know the comparative availability of sand for better operational management at district level.
- ii. All the payments (receipts and expenditure) shall be only through the banking system and no cash transactions shall be permitted.
- iii. Sand receipts shall be collected only through digital means, by displaying the QR Code/ UPI ID of the Joint Account at the stockyards.
- iv. DMG shall develop a system for issue of online permits at the earliest.
- v. GPS based vehicle tracking shall be mandated to enable tracking of the sand despatches. Towards this, all sand transporting vehicles shall be required to install GPS based Vehicle tracking devices at the earliest.
- vi. District Collectors shall maintain command-and-control center at the district level to monitor the sand operations with CCTV feeds within the district and handle all the complaints relating to sand issues.
- vii. DMG shall maintain the command-and-control center at the State level to monitor the overall sand operations within the State.

K. Remittance of Seigniorage Fee, DMF & MERIT:

- i. DLSC shall ensure that the statutory levies (Seigniorage Fee, collected for DMF & MERIT) collected from the sand supplies are remitted towards the respective Heads of Account of the consolidated fund of the State Government.
- ii. DLSC shall remit Rs. 2 per MT of sand dispatched, towards the DMG current account for maintenance of the command & control room, as well as other IT initiatives related to sand operations.

L. Limits on Purchase of Sand:

- i. To prevent hoarding/ black marketing of sand and ensure availability of sand for larger number of consumers, each consumer shall be permitted to purchase a maximum of 20 MT per day till supplies stabilize.

- ii. The limits may be revisited and modified by DLSC, based on the demand-supply scenario within the district. Accordingly, DLSC shall notify the modified limits to inform the public by providing wide publicity.
- iii. DLSC may grant appropriate relaxations for Govt. Works based on the request of concerned Engg. Depts.

M. Prohibited activities:

- i. The following activities are prohibited:
 - a. Stocking of sand more than the requirement for own construction
 - b. Re-sale of sand
 - c. Transportation of sand to other States.
 - d. Sand using for filling purpose or any other purpose, other than building construction.
 - e. Any other activity as prescribed by State Govt./DLSC.
- ii. Stringent action, including filing of criminal cases/levy of hefty penalties shall be taken on offenders who are indulging in the prohibited activities.

N. Vigilance & Monitoring

- i. District Level Task Forces (DLTF) should be constituted by the District Collectors with line departments for periodic inspections of all the stockyards and the sand sources to ensure smooth functioning of sand operations and to curb illegal mining/transportation.
- ii. Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) shall take necessary action to curb illegal mining/transportation, black marketing, hoarding and cross border transportation of sand by constituting revenue division wise teams and also arranging inter-state check posts.
- iii. A Divisional Level Vigilance & Monitoring committee with RDO/SC, DSP, Divisional Development Officer, DLPO, DE, Irrigation, AD, Mining and Mandal Level monitoring with Tahsildar/MPDO, Irrigation AE, SI shall be constituted to monitoring of Sand transportation etc.
- iv. The Chairman DLSC shall conduct a fortnightly co-ordination meeting with the task forces and SEB on the action taken and minutes of meeting shall be communicated to DMG.

O. Complaint Redressal Mechanism

- i. DLSC shall setup a complaint redressal mechanism including maintenance of district level toll free numbers, e-mail Ids to redress the complaints made by any citizen/ NGO in an effective and time-bound manner.
- ii. Similarly, a State-wide toll-free number and email-Id shall be established and maintained by DMG to register any complaints related to illegal sand mining/transportation/hoarding/black marketing activities etc.
- iii. control room at District level under JC control and Divisional Level cell under the chairmanship of RDOs/SCs shall be established.

P. Compliance of Environmental Rules & Regulations:

- i. DLSC shall ensure all the operations shall be in compliance with Sand Policy of Andhra Pradesh, Mines Act 1952, MMDR Act 1957, WALTA Act & Rules, MOEF&CC notifications, Office Memorandums & Guidelines and any other applicable law, rules, Hon'ble SC Orders, Hon'ble High Court & Hon'ble NGT Orders, Government orders, Instructions issued by Government and Department of Mines & Geology from time to time.

Q. Offences and Penalties:

- i. In case of the vehicles engaged in illegal/ un-authorized excavation in the prohibited areas (i.e., within 500 meters from the Ground water structures, Bridges, Dams, Railway lines and cross drainage

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structures etc.), transportation of sand outside the State and found transporting sand without valid Sand Waybill /invoice shall be penalized as follows;

Vehicle Type	First Time (In Rs.)	Second Time (In Rs.)
Tractor	Upto 10,000/-	Rs. 10,001 to 20,000/-
Lorry fitted with upto 10 tires capacity	Upto 25,000/-	Rs. 25,001/ to - 50,000/-
Lorry fitted with above 10 tires	Upto 50,000/-	Rs. 50,001/- to 1,00,000/-
Machinery	Upto 50,000/-	Rs. 50,001/- to 1,00,000/-

- ii. In case of bullock carts engaged in illegal/ un-authorized hoarding and selling, the penalty besides seizer of the sand shall be levied as follows:-

Vehicle Type	First Time (In Rs.)	Second Time (In Rs.)	Repeated offence (in Rs.)
Bullock cart	2,000/-	3,000/-	5,000/-

- iii. Any vehicle transporting sand, if found, carrying sand in excess of the quantity specified in Sand transit form /invoice or in excess of quantity permitted by the Transport Dept., penalty shall be levied on such excess quantity @ Rs.2000/- per MT
- iv. Whenever any person extracts sand or has extracted sand in the areas other than those notified for lawful excavation, the officers authorized shall assess such quantity of sand and levy and collect @ Rs.2,000/-per ton of sand or Rs.2.00 lakhs, whichever is higher, as penalty
- v. If any stock of sand beyond a person's reasonable requirement is stocked / hoarded / black marketed / sold, it shall be seized by the officer authorized. The person shall be punishable with imprisonment up to 2 years and a fine of Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs). DLSC shall take-over the seized sand and arrange to dispose the same, at the rates fixed by DLSC.
- vi. Officers authorized to levy, collect penalties and seizure of vehicles from the persons involved in illegal mining / stocking / hoarding / selling / black marketing in the State authorized under these rules are as follows:
- District Collector (Concerned)
 - Joint Collector (Concerned)
 - Superintendent of Police (Concerned)
 - Additional Superintendent of Police/OSD(Concerned)
 - Sub-Collector/ Revenue Divisional Officer (Concerned)
 - Tahsildar (Concerned) Mandal.
 - Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Concerned)
 - Station House Officer (Concerned)
 - District/Divisional Panchayat Officer(Concerned)
 - District Mines & Geology Officer (Concerned)
 - Any other officer nominated by Dist. Collector (Concerned) /Director of Mines & Geology
 - SHO (Special Enforcement Bureau), concerned
 - Additional Superintendent of Police (Special Enforcement Bureau), concerned.

- n) Enforcement Superintendent, Division, (Special Enforcement Bureau), concerned.
- vii. The vehicle/machinery, found involved in any violation more than two times, such vehicle/machinery along with sand shall be seized by officers authorized duly following the procedure as under:
- a) Issue show cause notice to the person/owner from whom the vehicle/machinery is seized.
 - b) Immediately take steps by preparing seizure report and produce the vehicle/machinery before the Competent Court to enable the person/owner from whom the vehicle/machinery is seized to file an application under Section 451 of Criminal Procedure Code Cr.P.C/Section 497 of newly enacted Bharatiya Nagarik Surakshit Sanhita, 2023/ appropriate section of Law, for release of vehicle/machinery.
 - c) In the alternative, the person/owner from whom vehicle/machinery is to be seized shall be permitted to submit explanation to the show cause notice along with an application to the authorized officer seeking release of vehicle/machinery
 - d) Upon receipt of explanation to the show cause notice and the application for release of vehicle/machinery, the authorized officer shall consider the application and pass appropriate orders in accordance with law, within a period of two weeks there from, on production of security of Rs.25,000/- in case of tractor;Rs.1,00,000/- in case of vehicle upto 10 tonnes capacity; Rs.1,50,000/- in case of vehicle above 10 tonnes capacity and Rs.2,00,000/- for any machinery, in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of the authorized officer along with an affidavit/undertaking to produce the seized vehicle/machinery as and when required.
 - e) The fine paid as per the orders of Competent Court; the security furnished as per clause (iv)above shall be deposited in the head of account "0853- 102-81-other receipts" and the original challan shall be sent to the Director of Mines & Geology concerned.

R. Appeals and Revisions:

1. Any person aggrieved by an order passed by any officer authorized, other than District Collector may prefer an Appeal before the District Collector within 30 days from the date of receipt of such order
2. Any person / agency aggrieved by an order passed by the District Collector /Officials of Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) pertaining to sand matters may prefer a Revision before the State Government from the date of receipt of such order.

S. Publicity

- i. The stockyard-wise rates, transportation rates, as well as the complaint redressal mechanism notified by the DLSC shall be given wide publicity through banners & flexies at major centers such as Stockyards, Collectorate, RDO offices, Mandal Offices, Gram & Ward Sachivalayams, Public places, and advertisements in newspapers.
- ii. Similarly, the above mentioned details shall also be published on the websites of Department of Mines & Geology and the respective districts.

T. Powers to issue Orders/Clarifications/Guidelines:

- a) The Government shall be the sole Authority to issue clarifications, exemptions, guidelines or relaxation orders from time to time, in implementation of this policy.
- b) Director of Mines and Geology shall issue operational guidelines from time to time for extraction and sale of sand to maintain environmentally sustainable sand mining in the State.

7. The VC & MD, APMDC shall¹¹ provide initial financial support to Commissioner & Director, Mines and Geology, AP., to make this Sand Policy operational, subject to reimbursement.

8. The Commissioner & Director, Mines and Geology, Govt. A.P., shall submit proposals for necessary amendments accordingly to Andhra Pradesh Minor Mineral Concession (APMMC) Rules, 1966.

9. These orders shall come into force with immediate effect.

10. The Government may revise the Sand Policy in future as and when required.

11. The Commissioner & Director, Mines and Geology, A.P., and all the concerned officers mentioned in the address entries shall take necessary action accordingly in the matter.

(BY ORDER IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

N YUVARAJ
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (MINES) (FAC)

To

The Commissioner & Director, Mines & Geology, A.P, Ibrahimpatnam,
NTR District.

The VC&MD, APMDC Ltd., APMDC Ltd., Kanuru, Vijayawada.

The Commissioner Special Enforcement Bureau, Mangalagiri.

All the District Collectors in the State of A.P.

All the members of District Level Sand Committees (through C&DM&G)

Copy to:

The Finance Dept., A.P.Secretariat.

The Law Dept., A.P.Secretariat

The Home Dept., A.P.Secretariat

The Revenue Dept., A.P.Secretariat

The Water Resources Dept., A.P.Secretariat.

The EFS&T Dept., A.P.Secretariat.

The Learned Advocate General, A.P., High Court Buildings, Nelapadu,
Amaravati.

All the Superintendents of Police in the State.

All the District Treasury Officers in the State of A.P.

The Director, Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Vijayawada.

The Pay and Accounts Officer, Vijayawada.

The Accountant General of Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.

The GA(SEB) Dept.

The P.S. to Prl. Secy to CM.

The P.S. to CS.

The OSD to Hon'ble Minister for M&G and Excise

The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Planning & Legislative Affairs

The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Information & Public
Relations

The P.S. to Hon'ble Advisor to Govt. Of A.P. (Public Affairs)

The P.S. to Prl., Secy (Mines)

SF/SC

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Mines & Minerals – Sand – Revised Free Sand Policy guidelines - Online, user friendly and with strengthened Institutional Mechanism - Orders – Issued.
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INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE (MINES-III) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No: 49

Dated:02.09.2024

Read the following:

1. G.O. Ms. No. 43, I&C (MINES-III) Dept, Dated 08.07.2024.
2. From the Commissioner & Director of Mines & Geology, A.P., single e-file bearing No. INC04-26024/25/2024-SAND SECTION-DMG, Dt.23.08.2024.

ORDER

In the G.O 1st read above, Government, while withdrawing the prevailing sand policies (New Sand Mining Policy 2019 and Upgraded Sand policy 2021) introduced the Interim Mechanism for supply of sand to the consumers without any revenue to the Government till formulation of Sand Mining Policy 2024 with certain objectives as mentioned therein.

2. In single e-file 2nd read above, the Commissioner and Director of Mines & Geology, AP., has stated that the implementation of the free sand supply mechanism has been reviewed and it is noted that there are certain areas related to sand supplies which need to be further improved to overcome the challenges faced in implementation of the Interim Mechanism for supply of sand issued vide G.O. 1st read above.

3. Accordingly, the Commissioner and Director of Mines & Geology, AP., after discussions at different levels has submitted a proposal with guidelines for improvement of Mechanism for supply of sand.

4. Government, after careful examination of the entire issue and in continuation of the orders issued vide G.O 1st read above, hereby issue the following Revised Free Sand Policy guidelines to further improve the sand supply mechanism;

- a) to make the process; technology based, user friendly, transparent and open.
- b) to regulate unrestricted discretion in demand of transportation charges.
- c) for efficient management of stock yards/reaches.
- d) for proper vigilance mechanism.
- e) for effective feedback and audit mechanism.

A. Identification of Sources:

I, II & IIIrd Order Streams

1. Customary extraction of sand in river streams of I, II & III orders by the public within the Gram Panchayat shall be permitted for personal use or community work in village.
2. The extraction of sand shall only be permitted through manual methods and no mechanical means be allowed.
3. Sand may be sourced for local needs by bullock carts.
4. Seigniorage Fee, DMF & MERIT shall be exempted for I, II & III order streams.
5. District Collector shall devise the mechanism for proper administration for extraction of sand from I, II & III order streams.

IV, V & Higher Order Streams

1. Sand excavation in river streams of IV, V & higher order streams will be permitted subject to obtaining all the applicable approvals, permissions and compliance of APMMC Rules, 1966, EIA Notification 2006, guidelines issued by MOEF&CC, orders of Hon'ble NGT & Supreme Court.
2. DLSC shall identify the reaches in IV, V and Higher Orders streams and obtain all necessary statutory clearances from competent authorities prior to commencement of operations.
3. Sand extraction by public through bullock carts for personal use or community work in village within Gram Panchayat shall be permitted in IV, V and Higher Orders streams with exemption of Seigniorage Fee, DMF & MERIT.

Patta Lands

1. Sand casted in Patta lands shall have to be removed to make them fit for agriculture purposes.
2. DLSC on obtaining the consent from Pattadars may approve de-casting of the Patta lands.
3. Mining outside the riverbed on Patta land shall be granted. Sand excavation in patta lands shall be permitted with the following conditions.

Condition	Excavation Responsibility	End Users
Possibility of Replenishment (or)	Pattadars/private persons	No Restriction on End Consumers

No possibility of replenishment and no riverbed mining possibility within 5 KM		
No Possibility of Replenishment and riverbed mining possibility within 5 KM	DLSC/Any govt nominated agency	Government Projects only. Material shall not be used for sale in open market.

4. Patta lands falling within riverbed shall only be de-casted by DLSC after obtaining statutory clearances.

5. A beneficiary amount, as fixed by Government shall be paid to the Pattadars for the excavation conducted by DLSC/ any Government agency nominated for this purpose.

6. Upper Price Limit of sand shall be fixed by the DLSC of the respective district for the sand excavated by Pattadars.

7. Separate guidelines for sand excavation, loading & transportation from the patta land/ khatedari land shall be formulated and circulated in due course of time.

iv. Sand Extraction in Scheduled Areas:

- a. Excavation from Sand bearing areas located partially/fully in Scheduled Areas shall be done by forming Tribal Societies as per the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Rules, 2011 or any Rules/Amendments made thereunder with Technical and Administrative support from DLSC under the direct supervision and control of the ITDA / District Collector & Magistrate concerned.
- b. DLSC shall dispose the excavated sand by following the prescribed norms.

v. De-Siltation of Rivers/ Canals/ Dams/ Reservoirs/Barrages:

- De-Siltation operations shall be undertaken as per the detailed guidelines provided vide G.O.Ms. No. 43, Ind & Com (Mines-III) Dept. dt. 08.07.2024.
- Water Resources Dept., shall take up de-siltation activities in the foreshore areas (water spread area at FTL) of Reservoirs/Barrages/ tanks. De-siltation beyond foreshore areas of Reservoirs / Barrages / Tanks in river course may also be taken up by the Water Resources Dept wherever feasible as per the availability of existing staff. In case of manpower issues additional resources and multi departmental coordination will be guided by the Joint Collector of the district to facilitate de-siltation by WRD dept., in compliance with all applicable acts, rules and directions of MoEF&CC, Hon'ble NGT, Hon'ble HC & Hon'ble SC.

B. Sand Booking & Supplies:

- i. The process of sand booking and supplies shall be digitized to enhance ease of booking for public, facilitate transportation at optimum-cost, streamline operations and strengthen vigilance mechanism.
- ii. DMG shall develop an online system for booking of sand by consumers. Sand booking shall also be permitted from Village/Ward Secretariats (VSWS).
- iii. Consumers who require sand for personal use (General consumers) shall be able to book directly from the online application/VSWS by providing details of the project and sand requirement. Post delivery of sand, validation of sand consumption shall be taken up through a reputed 3rd party agency.
- iv. After booking, each order shall be provided a specific delivery slot (time & date) at which sand shall be despatched from the reach/stockyard.
- v. Consumers who require sand for commercial use (Bulk consumers) shall be able to submit request for sand from the online application by providing details of the project and sand requirement. Sand shall be allotted to the consumers after pre-validation of the sand requirement by the Government.
- vi. Necessary Provisions may be made in the portal to facilitate development of weaker section housing programmes.

C. Transportation:

- i. All Vehicles which intend to transport sand shall have to be equipped with GPS devices and get registered with DMG.
- ii. General consumers shall be given the option of arranging either their own vehicle for sand delivery or can request Government to arrange for transportation of sand to their project location. Bulk consumers shall be required to arrange for own transportation for delivery of sand to their respective project locations. Proper accounting shall be done for sand supplied post-delivery. Collectors to ensure such accounting for all such deliveries made.
- iii. Transportation agencies, which intend to participate in Government facilitated sand delivery to consumers, shall have to empanel themselves with DMG/District Administration and provide their preferred area of operations (reaches/stockyards and destinations). Detailed guidelines for empanelment, including the Service Level Agreement (SLA) and submission of Performance Security Deposit (PSD) shall be issued from time to time.
- iv. DLSC shall
 - a. fix the maximum transportation cost to be charged by the transporters based on the type of vehicle, vehicle capacity and distance.
 - b. arrange for empanelment of transporters complying with the transportation cost duly signing Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and collecting Performance Security Deposits
 - c. facilitate the transportation of sand by the empanelled vehicles for the consumers opted for Government facilitation.
- v. DMG shall

- a. develop an online application to facilitate the transporters in the registration & empanelment process.
 - b. develop an online application to facilitate GPS tracking of all sand carrying vehicles to ensure sand is being delivered at the prescribed location, without any deviation.
- vi. All the Sand Carrying Vehicles shall display a banner of "Uchita Isuka Ravana Vahanam" in the front.

D. Operations:

- i. DLSC shall appoint agencies to undertake various activities viz. sand extraction, loading, ramp maintenance, security etc. at the reaches/pattalands/stockyards etc., through an open and transparent process.
- ii. Access to the reach or stockyard will be strictly controlled, with only authorized personnel being allowed entry.
- iii. DLSC shall ensure installation of CCTV cameras to monitor activities at all the sand sources.

E. Strengthening Institutional Mechanism:

- i. At State level, a Command & Control Centre shall be established to oversee all sand excavation, transportation activities and timely redressal of the grievances received from consumers.
- ii. At District level, Facilitation Centers shall be established to monitor sand supplies on real-time basis and improve co-ordination between consumers, transporters & other stakeholders.
- iii. Joint Collector shall be appointed as Special Officer for Sand Monitoring in respective districts.
- iv. Artificial Intelligence (AI) shall be leveraged to further improve the ease of sand booking for consumers and curb any scope for illegal hoarding/ mining/ transportation.

F. Periodic Audits and Collection of Feedback:

- i. Public satisfaction on sand policy shall be assessed through periodic feedback collection from public/consumers.
- ii. Toll-Free No. and email-ids shall be provided for the public to submit grievances, if any.
- iii. To ensure this, audits by third-party agencies at reaches/ stockyards & sand delivery locations shall be taken up to ensure quantity, quality and process audits.

5. The Commissioner & Director of Mines and Geology, Government of A.P., shall submit proposals for necessary amendments accordingly to Andhra Pradesh Minor Mineral Concession (APMMC) Rules, 1966.

6. These orders shall come into force with immediate effect.

7. The Government may revise the Sand Policy in future as and when required.

8. The Commissioner & Director of Mines and Geology, A.P., and all the concerned officers mentioned in the address entries shall take necessary action accordingly in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

MUKESH KUMAR MEENA IAS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (MINES)

To

The Commissioner & Director of Mines & Geology, A.P, Ibrahimpatnam, NTR District.

The VC&MD, APMDCLtd., Kanuru, Vijayawada.

The Commissioner Special Enforcement Bureau, Mangalagiri.

All the District Collectors in the State of A.P.

All the members of District Level Sand Committees (through C&DM&G)

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All the Superintendents of Police in the State.

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The P.S. to Prl., Secy (Mines)

SF/SC(2486879)

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SECTION OFFICER

