

By e-Mail/Fax

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

RDM-MMS-EXINST-0001-2019- ¹²⁶¹¹ /R&DM Dated 26.04.2019

From

Shri Nikunja B. Dhal, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government

To

All Collectors

Sub: Guidelines for regulating the sand quarrying in the State.

Madam/Sir,

Sand is the most important minor mineral used for various development projects and construction of buildings. Increase in demand of sand has put immense pressure on the sand sources, at times leading to illegal quarrying activities.

Unscientific sand quarrying and illegal lifting not only causes revenue loss to the state exchequer but also distorts the natural equilibrium of rivers. Indiscriminate sand mining may also lead to change of the course of rivers and embankment cave-in thereby threatening the life of inhabitants of villages situated along the river bank.

A number of instructions/guidelines have been issued by this Department from time to time to prevent illegal lifting of minor minerals. Grant of quarry lease is regulated as per the provisions of Chapter-IV of OMMC Rules, 2016.

To ensure scientific quarrying, transparent distribution and to prevent illegal lifting / theft of minor minerals, a scheme namely '*prevention of theft of minor minerals and eviction activities*' was launched during 2018-19 vide Resolution No. 23225/R&DM dated 28.06.2018. To implement the scheme, funds to the tune of Rs. 5.00 Crore was initially placed with Collectors vide this Department sanction order no. 25548 dated 11.07.2018.

In continuation of various instructions issued in the past, the following guidelines and instructions are issued for streamlining the process of sand quarrying and preventing illegal lifting of sand:

A. Identification of sources:

- i. Tahasildar shall conduct joint verification with Assistant Executive Engineer/ Executive Engineer of Water Resources Department for identification of specific river stretches having proper access for grant of quarry leases.
- ii. The boundaries of sand sources should be properly demarcated by pillar posting as instructed vide this Department letter No.15640 dtd. 15.05.2017.
- iii. In no case the lessee should be allowed to extract sand beyond the lease area.

B. Mining plan and environment clearances / approvals:

- i. Tahasildar (Competent Authority) shall get the mining plans prepared in advance through Registered Qualified Persons (RQP) in respect of the sources within his jurisdiction.
- ii. While preparing mining plan the distance of hydraulic structures including dams, barrages, check dams, bridges etc., location from habitations, heritage sites, monuments and public infrastructure facilities should be taken into consideration. Sand quarrying operation should not endanger the safety of these structures & imperil the lives of the people.
- iii. The Tahasildar shall apply for and obtain the Environmental Clearance (EC). The selected bidder shall bear cost of the preparation of mining plan and also the costs incurred for obtaining the EC.
- iv. In case the approval of mining plan and the Environmental Clearance have not been obtained by the Competent Authority, the selected bidder shall obtain the same before executing the lease deed.
- v. State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Odisha vide their Notice dated 12.05.2016 (copy enclosed) have informed all concerned that the lease holders of all minor mineral mines (irrespective of lease hold area) in the State are brought under the consent administration of the Board under the Water (PCP) Act, 1974 and Air (PCP) Act, 1981 and that for

operation of any minor mineral mines in the State, consent from the SPCB shall be obtained. The operation of any minor mineral mines in the State without obtaining consent from the SPCB will be considered as violation under section 25 of Water (PCP) Act, 1974 and under section 21 of Air (PCP) Act, 1981 and would lead to initiation of appropriate legal action.

- vi. It shall be the responsibility of the lessee to obtain the Consent to Operate (CTO) from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) before commencement of the quarrying operation.
- vii. Care should be taken to follow all the environmental norms issued from time to time by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India and Forest & Environment Department, Govt. of Odisha prior to lease of any sand source and during operation of the same. The lessee shall be responsible for implementing the Environment Management Plan (EMP).

C. Quarrying/Mining operation:

- i. Quarrying operation should be done strictly within the mining area as per the Mining plan. It should be undertaken only after putting in place the required environmental safeguards.
- ii. The depth of the quarry shall be restricted to three meters or water level, whichever is less.
- iii. The lessee shall not damage the embankment of the river.
- iv. No quarrying operation of sand shall be allowed through mechanized means and suction method.
- v. The lessee shall not dispatch the sand without a valid transit pass in Form-Y issued by the Tahasildar.
- vi. Since Hon'ble High Court in the order dated 19.07.2012 in WP (C) No. 12232 of 2012 have observed that the transport permit is issued only to transport the sand extracted from the sand sairat within the state of Odisha, the lessees should be instructed not to transport sand outside the State. Clarification in this regard has already been issued from this Department vide letter No. 36404 dated 02.12.2014.

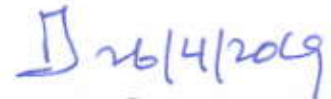
D. Steps for prevention of illegal sand quarrying/mining:

- i. District Administration shall put in place a robust monitoring mechanism to continuously monitor the quarrying activities of sand sources.
- ii. If any incidence of extraction of sand beyond the lease area by lessee is found, the same shall be treated as unauthorized and the lessee be penalized as per section 21(5) of MMDR Act, 1957 and the provisions of Rule 51 of OMMC Rules, 2016.
- iii. If any damage to embankments of the rivers comes to the notice, the lease shall be cancelled on obtaining the report from Assistant Executive Engineer / Executive Engineer of Water Resources Department.
- iv. The Revenue Administration and Police Administration shall seize all machines, vehicles, etc. used for carrying out illegal sand quarrying.
- v. Apart from instituting appropriate criminal proceedings against those carrying out illegal quarrying activities and transporting sand without valid 'Y' Form, maximum penalty should be imposed against them.
- vi. The District Administration should remain vigilant to prevent any incidence of interstate transportation of sand. If any such incidence comes to notice, the lease should be cancelled.
- vii. Temporary check gates may be set up during peak constructions season at common exit points to be decided by the Collectors. Care should be taken not to set up these posts on the National Highways and State Highways so that the general vehicular traffic is not affected and the commuters are not put to trouble.
- viii. Squads should be constituted at district and sub-divisional levels to conduct surprise checks in the sand quarrying areas and check the vehicles transporting sand. Raid/checking should always be done with adequate security arrangement to ward off any untoward situation.
- ix. Technical support of ORSAC may be taken for satellite based monitoring of very important sand sairats.

- x. All the complaints of unauthorized sand quarrying should be enquired by the Sub-Collector/ Addl. Sub-Collector/Tahasildar within 72 hours and remedial measures should be taken promptly.
- xi. Status of cases detected and action taken thereon for violation of provisions of OMMC Rules, 2016 and the Environmental Regulations should be reviewed in the monthly district level revenue meetings, and the issues arising thereon should be sorted out.

You are, therefore, advised to take all necessary measures for enforcing the above mentioned guidelines for preventing illegal and unauthorised sand quarrying in the State. Any deviation in implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the OMMC Rules, 2016 and the environmental regulations shall be viewed seriously and action deemed proper shall be initiated against the erring officer(s).

Yours faithfully,



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 12612 /R&DM Dated 26.04.2019

Copy forwarded to Steel & Mines Department / Forest and Environment Department / Water Resources Department / Member Secretary, SPCB / CEO, ORSAC for information and necessary action.


Additional Secretary to Government


Memo No. 12613 /R&DM Dated 26.04.2019

Copy forwarded to Secretary, Board of Revenue, Odisha, Cuttack/ All Revenue Divisional Commissioners for information and necessary action.


Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 12614 /R&DM Dated 26.04.2019

Copy forwarded to all Sub-Collectors/ all Tahasildars for information and necessary action.


26.4.2019

Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 12615 /R&DM Dated 26.04.2019

Copy forwarded to e-Governance Branch of this Department for uploading the same in the Department Website.


26.4.2019

Additional Secretary to Government

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STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA

(Department of Forest & Environment, Govt. of Odisha)
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakanthanagar, Unit-VIII
Bhubaneswar - 751012

No. 5803 / Ind-II-NOC- Misc.-170

Dt. 12-05-16

NOTICE

ATTENTION : LEASE HOLDERS OF ALL MINOR MINERAL MINES IN THE STATE

It is brought to the notice of all concerned in the State that, in compliance of order dated 1.2.2016 of the Hon'ble NGT, EZB, Kolkata and in pursuance of the decision taken in 113th Board meeting held on 11.3.2016, the minor mineral mines, irrespective of lease hold area, are brought under consent administration of the Board, under Water (PCP) Act, 1974 and Air (PCP) Act, 1981 vide Board's Resolution No. 5803/Ind-II-NOC-Misc.-170 dtd. 30.3.2016 and is classified as Red category.

Therefore, the lease holders of all minor mineral mines (irrespective of lease hold area) in the State are directed through this notice to apply for consent of the Board under section 25 of Water (PCP) Act, 1974 and under section 21 of Air (PCP) Act, 1981 and operate such mines only after obtaining consent to operate from the Board. It may also be noted that operation of any minor mineral mine in the State without obtaining consent from the State Pollution Control Board will be considered as violation Under Section 25 of Water (PCP) Act, 1974 and under section 21 of Air (PCP) Act, 1981 and would lead to initiation of appropriate legal action.

IMMEDIATE

Tanuj

Daj
MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No. 5803 dt. 12-05-16
Copy forwarded to the Principal Secretary, Forest & Env. Deptt, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Daj
MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No. 5803 dt. 12-05-16
Copy forwarded to the Principal Secretary, Steel & Mines Deptt, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

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MEMBER SECRETARY

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