

The State Government vide Memo No: 3066/M.II (1)/2016-3 dated:4.3.2016 announced the existing Sand Policy and salient features of the policy are:

- ◆ Sand shall be made available to the public without charging any fee from 2nd March, 2016. Existing Sand reaches for which Environmental Clearance is available, such reaches shall be opened up for free excavation and use of sand by the public within the state limits.
- ◆ The Joint Collector shall obtain all statutory clearances from competent authority and notify all feasible sand bearing areas in the district to the public through a website. Ramps and Access Roads shall be maintained by Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Department of the division, dovetailing NREGP funds or department's budget. Respective departments should protect their structures from excavating the sand in the prohibited areas of 500 Mts. and maintain a sign board at the periphery of the safety Zone.
- ◆ Stringent, punitive measures were put in place to deal with violations of the policy. Viz. :
  - i. Sand quarrying in prohibited areas such as reaches where no EC permission is available, or within 500 meters from bridges, culverts, ground water structures, tube wells, drinking water bore wells, irrigation structures, state & National highways, Railway lines etc., as per APWALTA Rules and EC Conditions.
  - ii. No stocking of sand more than the requirement for own construction is permitted.

- iii. Sand shall not be used for filling purpose or any other purpose other than building construction.
- iv. No sale of sand is permitted.
- v. Transportation of sand to any other state by any entity is strictly prohibited and treated as serious offence. Any user is permitted to take sand from authorized reaches. The Superintendent of Police/ Commissioner of Police shall ensure the same.

◆ The Department is maintaining a website (<http://www.apsand.com>) for transporters, to register themselves with their offers for transport charges for public use.

◆ De-casting sand from patta lands is also permitted only after verification of ownership, fixation of boundaries and assessment of sand quantity to be removed. Sale of sand from the patta lands is strictly prohibited.

◆ Steps to check misuse of Free Sand Policy:

The State Government vide G.O.Ms, No.42, Ind. , & Com., (M.II), Dept., dt:29.03.2016 issued orders for implementing the stringent measures to be taken against the persons, who are involved in sale/illegal/ un-authorized excavation of sand in prohibited areas (within 500 mts from the Ground

water structures, Bridges Dams, Railway lines and cross drainage structures etc.), treading and selling of sand, charging beyond cost of transportation and excavation, usage of machinery and vehicles involving in unauthorized excavation and transportation of sand to other States.

The details of penalized as follows:

- ◆ The Department established a Call center with Toll Free No.18005994599 for the purpose of receiving complaints from the public .The complaints received from the call centre will be referred to respective Assistant Directors of Mines & Geology of the Districts for redressal.

