

## **To Protect the Yamuna River**

**\*201.Shri Bishan LaL Saini, M.L.A.:** Will the Mines and Geology Minister be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to protect the Yamuna River in district Yamuna Nagar from impact of mining?

**Reply by Mool Chand Sharma, Mines and Geology Minister, Haryana.**

Sir, in river Yamuna mineral deposits such as Boulder, Gravel and Sand are found that are used in construction activities. The mineral concessions for extractions of same are being granted through competitive bidding/e-auction subject to various restrictions imposed by the Department of Mines and Geology decided in consultation with Irrigation Department to ensure protection of riverbed/river and to address other environmental concerns. The mineral concession for mining from riverbed areas are being granted subject to specific condition that excavation shall be undertaken only in central 3/4<sup>th</sup> part of riverbed and depth of excavation shall not be more than 3 metres from existing level of the bed. Furthermore, mining can be undertaken only after prior Environmental Clearance from the competent authority as required under EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The mineral concession holders also have to obtain Consent to Establish and Consent to operate from the Haryana State Pollution Control Board. The mining operations are, thus, subject to adequate safeguards for protecting the Yamuna River and the environment.