



F. No.: TE-16019/4/2020-O/o AD(RD Tech) NMCG/

Dated 11 June, 2020

To,

1. The Deputy Commissioner,
Deputy Commissioner Office
Sirmour at Nahan, Himachal Pradesh.
Pin Code - 173001
2. The SDM Paonta Sahib,
SDM Office,
Executive Engineer, Paonta B&R Division
HPPWD Paonta Sahib, Court Road,
Paonta Sahib, Himachal Pradesh 173025

Sub: Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 prohibiting mining activities in floodplain and riverbed of river Yamuna and its tributaries in Himachal Pradesh - reg.

WHEREAS, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has been constituted as an authority by Govt. of India vide Notification No. S. O. 3187 (E) dated 07.10.2016 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to exercise the powers and functions conferred under the said notification for prevention, control and abatement of pollution in River Ganga and its tributaries and matters connected therewith; and

WHEREAS, para 39 of the above said notification provides functions of the NMCG and amongst other clause c of the said para provides that NMCG shall identify or cause to be identified for the specific areas where such remedial actions are required to be taken for rejuvenation and protection of River Ganga and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, large scale and uncontrolled mining of sand, stone and gravel in floodplain and riverbed impacts the river morphology, its physical, biological and chemical properties besides resulting in destruction of the habitat of aquatic flora and fauna and affecting of groundwater recharge; and

WHEREAS, it has been brought under the notice of NMCG that large scale mining of sand and minor minerals is allegedly being carried out in unscientific and haphazard manner in floodplain and on riverbed of river Yamuna in Paonta Sahib area of the Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh, which *inter-alia* raised the concern impacting the river system directly or indirectly; and

WHEREAS, para 41 (2) (m) read with clause (3) of para 41 of above said notification, empowers NMCG to direct any person or authority to take any such measures which may be necessary for prevention, control and abatement of pollution, rejuvenation, protection and management of river Ganga and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, the MOEF&CC has issued the 'Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020' for effective enforcement of regulatory provisions to check mining activities that adversely affects the health of the rivers/streams in the country and mandates that all mining activities shall be carried out in strict compliance to the said guidelines in order to protect and conserve the beauty and cleanliness of the rivers/streams; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of powers vested to NMCG under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, following directions are hereby issued. it is hereby directed to take necessary action to prevent mining along the flood plain of river Yamuna and its riverbed at the highlighted site and to take following actions forthwith:

- i. Complaints received by NMCG dated 09.6.2020 (copy enclosed) be immediately enquired by State and district administration and factual report in the matter be send by Himachal Pradesh State government to NMCG by 15.6.2020.
- ii. State government of Himachal Pradesh shall ensure strict vigil against mining activities being undertaken in the floodplains and river bed of river Yamuna and its tributaries. State government shall also conduct surprise inspections through team of enforcement agencies to prevent and check mining in floodplain and on riverbed of river Yamuna and its tributaries. A monthly report should be submitted to NMCG furnishing details of all inspections carried out to prevent illegal and unauthorised mining and results thereof.
- iii. Take effective and immediate action under law against violators and erring officials/ Departments/ Institutions including assigning of liability to prevent such violations in the future.
- iv. An Action Taken Report must be submitted to NMCG within **One Week** from the date of receipt of the aforesaid directions.

The enforcement and implementation of the directions as mentioned above shall rest with the District administration and the District authorities concerned will be held liable for lapses therein, if any, and shall be dealt strictly.



(Rajiv Ranjan Mishra)

Director General

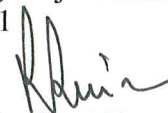
National Mission for Clean Ganga

Copy to (for information with a request to issue necessary instructions for implementation of these directions):

1. Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh- for information with a request to issue necessary instructions for implementation of these directions.
2. The Director of Industries, Department of Industries, Government of Himachal Pradesh

Copy (for kind information):-

1. PS to Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110001
2. DDG/ ED(T)/ ED(P)/ ED(F), NMCG.



(Rajiv Ranjan Mishra)

Director General

National Mission for Clean Ganga