

UP to give industry status to M-sand production units

Step To Help Curb Illegal Sand Mining & Reducing Pollution

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Lucknow: In an environment-friendly step, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to give MSME industry status to manufactured sand (M-sand) units.

The step aims at promoting the use of M-sand which has emerged as sustainable option for natural river sand, curbing illegal sand mining and reducing waste generated from coal mines (called coal overburden) which occupies and pollutes land.

M-sand is made by crushing large stones into fine particles, which are then cleaned and finely graded. M-sand can be made in many ways such as using coal overburden.

MSME department officials said the Yogi Adityanath government would introduce a policy to promote M-sand which would entail extending of MSME status to production units.

"M-sand units will get all benefits like power subsidies

WHAT IS M-SAND?
M-sand, or manufactured sand, is made by crushing large stones into fine particles, which is then cleaned and finely graded. Besides being environmentally sustainable, it comes with several benefits

- Cost-effectiveness**
Produced in large quantities at a lower cost
- Consistency**
Provides consistent grain size and shape
- Reduces Mining**
Curbs mining which is known to adversely affect river health and biota
- Saves Water**
Requires less water in construction projects as it does not require washing before use

(Source: Ministry of Coal, India)

and mineral royalties provided under MSME framework," the official said, adding that the final draft of M-Sand Policy, prepared after long stakeholder consultations led by department of mining and geology, will be placed before the cabinet soon.

The government aims to

buy 25% of M-sand produced in the state through engineering departments. The purchase would be increased gradually.

Additional director, directorate of geology and mining, Vipin Kumar Jain said: "There is a provision for capital subsidy, and exemption of

stamp duty and interest. In Bundelkhand and Purvanchal regions, 25% capital subsidy will be given to micro units, 20% to small units and 15% to medium enterprises, while in Madhyanchal and Paschimanchal, it will be 20%, 15% and 10%, respectively."

He added that 100% stamp duty exemption will be given for Bundelkhand and Purvanchal and 75% for Madhyanchal and Paschimanchal regions.

There is also a plan to provide interest subsidies of up to 50% to micro-enterprises with a capping of Rs 25 lakh for 5 years. There is also a provision for mineral royalty, under which royalty exemption will be provided on source rock.

Union coal ministry has launched a special campaign to promote M-sand from coal overburden through Coal India Ltd (CIL). Experts said that besides being environment friendly, M-sand contains lesser impurities and has more strength.