

'Promote MSand production in state'

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While last year, the department cornered Rs 372 crore as royalty fees and taxes for the mining activity, this time the revenue increased to Rs 730 crore.

Yogi asked the officials to keep focusing on strengthening revenue streams further and come up with a robust policy to promote auction of the major mineral blocks.

"New blocks for mining should be identified in the state to increase mineral production. Alternative resources and setting up brick kilns should be considered, instead of extracting soil from fertile land for brick production in the state," he said.

In order to prevent incessant excavation of minor minerals (baalu and morrun) from the river basin, Yogi asked the officials to promote MSand (manufactured or artificial sand) production in the



CM Yogi Adityanath chairing the meeting of mining department on Thursday

state. Officials were also asked to be careful and intensify technical surveillance at 39 checkpoints through which goods are ferried from the state to the neighbouring states.

While complying with the directions of the National Green Tribunal, Yogi asked officials to expedite the process of issuing the environmental NOCs in collaboration with the other government agencies. The officials presented their strategy to auction the 19 major mineral blocks in the state and approach they would

follow to lease out the minor mineral blocks. The minor minerals generate 70% of revenues for the department in a year. Yogi directed the officials to hold consultations with both administrative officials and brick kiln owners in order to encourage them to source soil from infertile land tracts instead of digging up arable land. Mining department director Roshan Jacob said that production of MSand is going to be expedited and real estate industry players will be asked to procure MSand.