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PART I.—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE & ENTERPRISES
Mines Branch
 NOTIFICATION

No. 284-ICE/O/MIN/GEN-MIS/02/2021.—30th July, 2021.—Whereas, the Government of West Bengal has been considering the importance of framing a Sand Mining Policy for the State of West Bengal to improve the effectiveness of monitoring of mining and transportation of sand and to ensure the extraction is carried out in scientific, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner ;

Whereas, to prevent damage to the riverine ecology and to protect black marketing and hoarding of sand, the Government of West Bengal through its Cabinet Meeting held on 22nd July, 2021 has decided to bring a new Sand Mining Policy, 2021 for the State of West Bengal ;

Now, therefore, the Governor in the interest of the public service, is pleased to hereby publish the Sand Mining Policy, 2021 for the State of West Bengal as given in the Schedule hereto annexed for information of all persons in good faith.

The Schedule

The West Bengal Sand Mining Policy, 2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Articles 39(B) of the Indian Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy) states that the natural resources of the community have to be distributed so as to sub-serve the common good of the community. Natural resources are legally owned by the State. The State should ensure equitable, sustainable and affordable distribution of natural resources.
- 1.2. Sand, a natural resource, is a minor mineral as defined under S 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 ("MMDR Act"). Under the MMDR Act, the legal and administrative control over minor minerals vests with the State Government, which has the powers to make rules to govern minor minerals.