

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TO BE ANSWERED ON
22/07/2026**

STARRED QUESTION NO: 167

Subject: River Embankments

M. Badruddin Ajmal, MLA

Will the Minister of Water Resources Department be pleased to state:

-QUESTION-

- (a) Does the responsibility for the courses and flow of the state's rivers, as well as the maintenance of their embankments, fall under the purview of the Water Resources Department ?
- (b) If so, does the responsibility for managing the situation rest with the Water Resources Department particularly given that the Forest Department has been extracting sand from the riverbed for commercial purposes for over a decade in a manner that alters the river's natural course and jeopardizes the structural stability of its banks ?
- (c) If so, will the Water Resources Department immediately initiate an inquiry into the reckless sand extraction carried out by the Forest Department in the Jamuna River which flows through Binnakandi constituency and the adverse effects resulting from it ?
- d) If so, within what timeframe will it be done, and if not, the reasons thereof ?

Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources Department, Sri Susanta Borgohain will reply:

- a) The maintenance, repair, and protection of river embankments constructed by the Water Resources Department (WRD) fall within the jurisdiction of the Department. The primary mandate of the Water Resources Department is the planning, execution, operation, and maintenance of flood management and river protection works, including flood mitigation measures, river bank stabilization, anti-erosion/protection works, pro-siltation measures, and safeguarding of water resources infrastructure and assets.
- b) The Water Resources Department is entrusted to look after the protection of river banks and embankments. However, the extraction of sand and minor minerals through designated Sand Mahals is regulated and carried out by the Forest Department in accordance with prevailing rules and regulations. The WRD issues the NOC to the Forest Department for establishment of such Mahals on the basis of joint verification with Forest and Revenue Department subject to specified terms and conditions like excavation of sand from a safe distance from river bank, limiting the depth of excavation, not to damage the embankment due to movement of vehicle with maintenance of the damaged portion by the permit holder, not to disturb the existing river bank line etc. It is pertinent to mention that certain rivers carry a substantial load of sand, silt, and other minor minerals. Controlled and regulated extraction of such materials does not

adversely affect the structural stability of river banks; rather, it can enhance the river's carrying capacity and help maintain a clear waterway.

In the event of any violation of the terms and conditions stipulated in the No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by the WRD, or in case of any harm or damage to the structural stability of embankments or river banks, the WRD promptly reports the matter to the District Administration and the Forest Department for necessary action.

- c) The Hojai Water Resources Division has visited the concerned sites on 14.07.2026. During the inspection, it was observed that sand had been extracted previously at following locations:

Changmajgaon

Changmaji Mikirgaon

Doboka Pather

Beluatigam near Nisari Bridge

Dakhin Debasthan

Barikasargaon

Samarali, Ward No. 7

However, extraction activities have now ceased at most of these sites except at Triganga area at Pachim Jamuna Gaon.

Vide letter WR(Hojai)/DC/33/141 dated 04/06/2026(Enclosed as “Annexure-I”), the Water Resources Department has already intimated the matter to the District Administration and the Forest Department for necessary compliance, as deemed appropriate.

Furthermore, a reminder has also been issued to the concerned authorities for necessary compliance vide letter No. WR(HOJAI)/DC/33/192A-A dated 14-07-2026 (Enclosed as “Annexure-II”)

- d) The Water Resources Department has intimated the matter to the District Administration and the Forest Department for necessary action/compliance, as deemed fit from time to time.

Vide Letter No.E-724080/29 dtd.09.07.2026 Water Resources Department has sought replies to the relevant points from the forest Department. Reply of the Forest Department vide letter E.No.814776/6 dtd.14.07.2026 has been enclosed as “Annexure-III” .

(Answer along with “Annexure-I”, “Annexure-II” & “Annexure-III”

have been uploaded in the NeVA portal)

কাৰ্য্যবাহী অভিযন্তাৰ কাৰ্য্যালয়
হোজাই জলসম্পদ সংমণ্ডল
দক্ষিণবিদ্যানগৰ, টুম্প্ৰেং পথ
ডাকঘৰ : শিংগাৰীবস্তি, জিলা : হোজাই,
অসম, পিন : ৭৮২৪৩৫
ই-মেইল : hojaidivisionwrd@gmail.com



ANNEXURE - I
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
HOJAI W.R. DIVISION
DAKHIN BIDYANAGAR, TUMPRENG ROAD
P.O.: SINGARI BASTI, DIST: HOJAI,
ASSAM, PIN- 782435
E-MAIL : hojaidivisionwrd@gmail.com

No. WR(HOJAI)/DC/33/141

Dated: 04/06/2026

ANNEXURE-I

To,

The District Commissioner,
Hojai

Subject: Information regarding sand mining at Paschim Jamunagaon near Triganga.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I have the honour to inform you that an official site visit was conducted by the Water Resources Officials on 30th May, 2026 and it was confirmed that sand mining activities are actively continuing at Paschim Jamunagaon near Triganga (Latitude-26.138442, Longitude-92.93228). Prolonged mining of sand near river banks may result in slump down of river banks on both banks of Jamuna river threatening the stability of vital river embankments and also carries risks of severe riverbank erosion. Also, excessive sand mining can alter the river bed, forcing the river to change its course endangering nearby public infrastructure and villages.

This is for favour of your kind information and needful action.

Yours faithfully,

Executive Engineer
Hojai W.R. Division
Hojai

Memo No.

Dated:

Copy to:

1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Nagaon South Division, Hojai for favour of kind information.

Executive Engineer
Hojai W.R. Division
Hojai

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE - II

কাৰ্যবাহী অভিযন্তাৰ কাৰ্যালয়
হোজাই জলসম্পদ সংৰক্ষণ
দক্ষিণবিদ্যানগৰ, টুম্প্ৰেংপথ
ডাকঘৰ : শিংগাৰীবস্তি, জিলা : হোজাই
অসম, পিন : ৭৮২৪৩৫
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
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No. WR(HOJAI)/DC/33/

Dated:

To,

The District Commissioner,
Hojai

Subject: Information regarding sand mining at Paschim Jamunagaon near Triganga.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I have the honour to inform you that an official site visit was conducted by the Water Resources Officials on July 14, 2026 and it was confirmed that sand mining activities are actively continuing at Paschim Jamunagaon near Triganga (Latitude-26.138442, Longitude-92.93228). Prolonged mining of sand near river banks may result in slump down of river banks on both banks of Jamuna river threatening the stability of vital river embankments and also carries risks of severe riverbank erosion. Also, excessive sand mining can alter the river bed, forcing the river to change its course endangering nearby public infrastructure and villages.

This is for favour of your kind information and needful action.

Yours faithfully,

— 54 —
Executive Engineer
Hojai W.R. Division
Hojai

No. WR(HOJAI)/DC/33/192A-A

Dated: 14/07/2026

Copy to:

1. The Chief Engineer, WRD, AWC, Ghy-29 for favour of kind information
2. The Superintending Engineer, Nagaon W.R. Circle for favour of kind information.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Nagaon South Division, Hojai for favour of kind information.

Executive Engineer
Hojai W.R. Division
Hojai
14/07/26

ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE - III
ASSEMBLY URGENT

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14/7

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6

E. No. 814776/6

Dated Dispur, the 14th July, 2026

To : The Deputy Secretary (II) to the Govt. of Assam,
Water Resources Department,
Dispur, Guwahati-06.

Sub : Submission of reply to Provisional Starred Assembly Question
Dy. No.6 to be asked by M. Badruddin Ajmal , Hon'ble MLA.

Sir,

I am directed to submit herewith the replies to the relevant points of the Provisional Starred Assembly Question Dy. No. 6 to be asked by M. Badruddin Ajmal, Hon'ble MLA, regarding River Embankments, for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Enclo : As above.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
SACHINDRA DAS
Date: 14-07-2026
13:12:21

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department.

Memo. E. No. 814776/6-A

Dated Dispur, the 14th July, 2026.

Copy forwarded to:

1. P.S. to the Special Chief Secretary, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department,
Dispur, Guwahati-06.

(e-signed)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department

ASSEMBLY URGENT

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS &
HEAD OF FOREST FORCE, ASSAM
ARANYA BHAWAN, PANABARI, GUWAHATI-781037**

E Mail: hoff-assam@gov.in

No.:FG.32/AQ/Dy No. 06/2026

Date: 13.07.2026

To

The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam
Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department
Dispur, Guwahati-6

Sub:

Provisional Starred Assembly Question Dy No. 06 to be asked by M. Badaruddin Ajmal, Hon'ble MLA.

Ref: -

Letter No. E.724080/29 dated 9-07-2026.

Sir,

With reference to the subject & letter mentioned above, I am directed to submit herewith the reply in respect of Provisional Starred Assembly Question Dy No. 06 to be asked by M. Badaruddin Ajmal, Hon'ble MLA, for favour of your kind perusal and needful action.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,


Deputy Conservator of Forests (PO-II)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force, Assam

Priority Question for the Assam Legislative Assembly
PROVISIONAL STARRED

Assam Legislative D. No. 06

Department : Water Resources.
Asked by : M. Badaruddin Ajmal Hon'ble MLA.
Subject : River Embankments

a) Does the responsibility for the courses and flow of the state's rivers, as well as the maintenance of their embankments, fall under the purview of the Water Resources Department?

Ans- Does not pertain to the Forest Department.

b) If so, does the responsibilities for managing the situation rest with the water Resources Department particularly given that the Forest Department has been extracting sand from the riverbed for commercial purposes for over a decade in a manner that alters the river's natural course and jeopardizes the structural stability of its banks?

Ans- Minor Mineral extraction is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2013 (as amended from time to time), the approved District Survey Report (DSR) along with approved Mining Plan, Environmental Clearance (EC) and other applicable statutory provisions and guidelines issued by the competent authorities.

c) If so, will the Water Resources Department immediately initiate an inquiry into the reckless sand extraction carried out by the Forest Department in the Jamuna River which flows through Binnakandij and the adverse effects resulting from it constituency

Ans- As per the District Survey Report (DSR) published on 22/01/2025, there is no Sand Mahal in the Jamuna River under the jurisdiction of Nagaon South Forest Division, Hojai. Only two Sand Mahals in the Kapili River have been identified and permitted by the competent authority. The quantity of sand permitted for extraction from these Sand Mahals is as specified in the District Survey Report (DSR). Extraction is carried out only after obtaining all approvals like Environmental Clearance (EC), NOC from Water Resource Department, NOC from District Administration and an approved Mining Plan and as per the provisions of the Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2013 (as amended in 2026). The extraction is carried out in a scientific and environmentally sustainable manner as per the Mining Plan.

d) If so, within what timeframe will it be done, and if not, the reasons thereof?

Ans- Does not arise.


Deputy Conservator of Forests (PO-II)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force, Assam