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After liquor, state to take over sand trade

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Ranchi: After taking over the retail sale of alcohol, the state government is now set to take control of sand mining and its sale. On Friday, the cabinet approved a mining policy that will end the the system of auctioning sand banks to private miners in exchange of royalty. The government will identify and list sand banks and divide them into two tiers. Secretary (industries, mines and geology) Sunil Kumar Burnwal said, "Tier-1 mines will be brought under the purview of gram panchayats. Commercial mining will not be allowed in these banks." He added, "Panchayats will mine according to the need of the area and development projects such as MGNREGA."