

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA  
ON THE 10TH MARCH, 2017

**Bill No. LXII of 2016**

THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016

A

BILL

*to amend the National Waterways Act, 2016.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the National Waterways (Amendment) Act, 2016.

Short title and  
commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification  
5 in the Official Gazette, appoint.

17 of 2016.

2. In the Schedule to the National Waterways Act, 2016, entries shown against serial  
numbers 25, 27, 68, 71, 88 and 111 shall be deleted.

Amendment  
of the  
Schedule.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Union Government introduced a Bill in Parliament recently, entitled the National Waterways Bill 2016, which was passed by both the Houses of parliament and, is now law of the land.

The Act has sought to nationalise in all 111 rivers in the country which includes six rivers of Goa which are mentioned in the Schedule of the Act at Serial Nos. 25 (Chapora river), Serial 27 (Cumarjua River), Serial No 68 (Mandovi River), Serial No 71 (Mapusa/Moide River, Serial No 88 (Sal River) and Serial No 111 (Zuari River).

If the intention of the Government was to make the rivers more effectively navigable, then, the proper course would have been to allot some financial assistance to Goa Government for purpose of undertaking dredging work instead resorting to nationalisation of the six rivers which involves taking possession by the Central Government of the six rivers and some unspecified land.

Legal status of the land on both sides of the banks of the six rivers is still not known. Whether by virtue to nationalisation of the six rivers, a certain area on both sides of the six rivers is going to be the property of the Central Government or not has not been made clear.

In what circumstances, the State Government gave approval to the Bill has not been explained to the people of Goa, and also, whether social impact assesment has been made with respect to the six rivers, and whether, issues arising out of impact on fishermen's livelihood and other environmental aspects, have been taken into consideration, has not been made transparent.

At the stage of introduction of the Bill, funding pattern has also not been quantified although it is learnt that besides the budgetary support the funding will involve public private partnership, World bank loan and not less than five to six other sources.

Rallys and morchas were held in the State of Goa on the issue of nationalisation. In the meantime, Mormugao Port Trust has entered into an agreement with Inland Waterways Authority without making Goa Government a Party.

However, since there is a general opposition to the nationalisation of the said six rivers of Goa, the present Bill is being sought to be introduced.

SHANTARAM NAIK

ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS ACT, 2016

(17 OF 2016)

THE SCHEDULE

(See section 2)

Sl.No.	National Waterways	Limits of the National Waterways
(1)	(2)	(3)
*	*	* * *
25.	National Waterway 25	<i>Chapora River:</i> Bride at State Highway No. 124 (1 Km from Maneri village) Lat 15° 42'47" N. Lon 73° 57' 23" E to Confluence of Chapora river with Arabian Sea at Morjim Lat 15°36'33"N, Lon 73° 44'01"E.
*	*	* * *
27.	National Waterways 27	<i>Cumberjua River:</i> Confluence of Cumberjua and Zuvari rivers near Cortalim ferry terminal Lat 15° 24'40"N, Lon 73° 54'48"E to confluence of Cumberjua and Mandovi rivers near Sao Martias Vidhan Parishad Lat 15° 31'26"N, Lon 73°55'34"E.
*	*	* * *
68.	National Waterway 68	<i>Mandovir River:</i> Bridge at Usgaon at Lat 15°26'42"N, Lon 74°03'12"E to Confluence of Mandovi river with Arabian Sea at Reis Magos Lat 15°28'32"N, Lon 73° 46'46"E.
*	*	* * *
71.	National Waterway 71	<i>Mapusa/Moide River:</i> Bridge on National Highway-17 at Mapusa Lat 15° 35'21"N, Lon 73° 49'17"E to confluence point of Mapusa and Mandovi rivers at Porvorim Lat 15° 30'20"N, Lon 73° 50'42"E.
*	*	* * *
88.	National Waterway 88	<i>Sal River:</i> Orlim Deusa Bridge Lat 15°13'11" N, Lon 73°57'30"E to confluence with Arabian Sea at Mobor Lat 15°08'32"N, Lon 73°57'0"E.
*	*	* * *
111.	National Waterway 111	<i>Zuari River:</i> Sanvordem bridge Lat 15°16'15"N, Lon 74°07'11"E to Marmugao Port Lat 15°25'55"N, Lon 73°48'13"E.

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*(Shri Shantaram Naik, M.P.)*