

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.140

TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY, 2018

USE OF GANGA WATERWAYS FROM HALDIA TO VARANASI

†\*140. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is unable to use Ganga waterways from Haldia to Varanasi, comprehensively, for transportation of goods because of deposition of soil in the Ganga, which is a major hurdle in this regard;
- (b) whether Bihar Government has set up an expert committee for desilting Ganga river along with the request to Central Government to conduct a study for uninterrupted flow of Ganga; and
- (c) if so, the progress thereof?

ANSWER  
MINISTER OF SHIPPING  
(SHRI NITIN GADKARI)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 140 for 01.01.2018 raised by Shri Ram Nath Thakur, M.P. on "Use of Ganga Waterways from Haldia to Varanasi"**

- (a): Yes, Sir. Due to inadequate draft in different stretches of Ganga, difficulties were experienced in using National Waterway (NW)-1 for shipping and navigation. To overcome the problem, the Government is implementing the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on NW-1 on the Haldia – Varanasi stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi- Hooghly River System. The project is being implemented at a cost of Rs.5369 crore along with technical and financial assistance of the World Bank to provide an assured depth of 2.2 to 3.0 meters and a bottom channel of 45 meters for at least 330 days in a year to make it navigable for vessels up to 2000 tonnes.
- (a)&(c): The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, after considering the views of the State Government of Bihar, has set up a committee on 24.08.2017 under the chairmanship of Shri A. B. Pandya, former Chairman of Central Water Commission (CWC) to address the issue of floods and siltation in Ganga in Bihar. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are given below and it has been requested to furnish its report by 24.2.2018.
- (i) Assessment of morphological changes and river behavior analysis in river Ganga in Bihar.
  - (ii) Assessment of silt load and sedimentation with respect to return period of floods and to identify the intensity of the devastation emerging from flood peak on account of sedimentation in the river Ganga.
  - (iii) To identify the impact of Farakka Barrage with reference to operating policy, on the flood and river siltation in main stem of river Ganga in Bihar.
  - (iv) To assimilate and review the outcome of various scientific studies carried out by expert organizations/ experts.
  - (v) To suggest possible remedial measures to be undertaken for mitigating the devastation occurring during flood peaks on account of siltation and for ensuring regular flushing of silt including minimum desirable flow in the main stem of river Ganga upstream of Bihar.

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