

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1563
ANSWERED ON - 24.12.2018

WATER TRANSPORT FOR COMMERCIAL USE

1563. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to develop water transport system for commercial usage in the country;
- (b) if so, the detailed revival projects of water transport facilities;
- (c) whether Government proposes to redevelop waterways and multi-modal commercial projects on river Ganga and Brahmaputra; and
- (d) the details of plan on dredging of rivers and commercialization of waterways system in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The following initiatives have been taken by the Government in the last four years to develop Inland Water Transport (IWT) as an environment friendly, economical and supplementary mode of transport:-

- i. Under the National Waterways Act, 2016, 106 new National Waterways (NWs) have been declared, in addition to the existing 5 NWs, for promoting, shipping and navigation on them. In the process, the length of NWs has increased from 4382 km to over 20,000 km. NW-1, 2 and 3 are operational and cargo and passenger are moving on them.
- ii. To augment the navigation capacity in the Haldia - Varanasi stretch of NW-1, the Jal Marg Vikas Project is being implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.5369 crore with technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. The project includes fairway development, construction of multimodal terminals, intermodal terminals, Ro-Ro terminals, navigational lock at Farakka, River Information System, vessel repair and maintenance complex etc. The project is to be completed by March, 2023.
- iii. On NW-2 (Brahmaputra), Ro-Ro services have been introduced between Dhubri to Hatsingimari and Neamati to Kamlabari.
- iv. In the Vijaywada to Muktyala stretch on river Krishna on NW-4, the work for fairway development and installation at four terminals is going on and Ro-Ro services have commenced.

- v. To undertake the development on NW-5, DPR has been taken up for Front End Engineering Design (FEED) and EPC tender document for construction of Weirs/ Barrages with navigational locks and check dams between Pankopal and Paradip/ Dhamra (Phase-I).
- vi. Out of 106 newly declared National Waterways, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 30 technically viable NWs have been prepared. Out of these 30 NWs, developmental activities have been initiated on 10 NWs.
- (c) On NW-1 (River Ganga) a Multi-Modal Terminal (MMT) at Varanasi has been inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 12.11.2018. Work for construction of MMT on Sahibganj (Jharkhand) and Haldia (West Bengal) is going on. As regards NW-2 (river Brahmaputra), a high and low level RCC Jetty has been constructed at Pandu in Assam. This jetty is being used by the vessel operators and is well connected with National Highway (NH) - 31 and also with Kamakhya Railway Station. Ro-Ro services between Dhubri to Hatsingimari and between Neamati and Kamlabari are operational.
- (d) IWAI takes up maintenance dredging in National Waterways for promotion of shipping and navigation on them. The Dredging Management Plan of Ganga (NW-1) under JMVP is at **Annex**. Annual maintenance dredging is done in river Brahmaputra (NW-2) for development of 2.5 m Least Available Depth (LAD) in Dhubri-Neamati stretch, 2.0 m LAD in Neamati – Dibrugarh stretch and 1.5 m LAD in Dibrugarh – Sadiya stretch.

As an initiative towards commercialization of waterways, IWAI has engaged M/s KPMG as a consultant for Asset Management and Operational Framework Development for NW-1 under JMVP. The consultancy services was awarded in February, 2018 and the consultants are required to study suitable cost recovery and tariff realization mechanism, market intelligence, development and allocation of risks across all stakeholders, business development plan, marketing and commercial development and development of multimodal logistics parks.

Dredging Management Plan for NW-1

- i) Provision of LAD of 3 m and bottom channel width of 45 m on the Haldia - Farakka (351km) stretch through deployment of departmental dredgers/SPCSDs. The estimated quantity of dredging required is 4.813 million CuM.
- ii) Provision of least assured depth (LAD) of 3m and bottom channel width of 45 m on the Farakka-Kahalgaon stretch (146 Kms) through Performance Based Assured Dredging contract. The estimated quantity of dredging required is 2.865 million CuM. Work has commenced at a cost of Rs. 150 crore.
- iii) Provision of LAD of 3 m and bottom channel width of 45 m on the Sultanganj-Mahendrapur stretch (74 Kms) through Performance Based Assured Dredging contract. The estimated quantity of dredging required is 3.369 million CuM. The tender was published on 13.07.2018 and evaluation process is in progress.
- iv) Provision of LAD of 3 m and bottom channel width of 45 m on the Mahendrapur – Barh stretch (71 Kms) through Performance Based Assured Dredging contract. The estimated quantity of dredging required is 3.232 million CuM. The tender was published on 25.07.18 and evaluation process is in progress.
- v) Provision of LAD of 2.5 m and bottom channel width of 45 m on the Barh – Doriganj stretch (109 kms) through quantity based maintenance dredging contract (Mix & Match – IWAI dredger + SP-CSD from Service Provider). The estimated quantity of dredging required is 8.974 million CuM. The tender process is in progress.
- vi) Provision of LAD of 2.5 m and bottom channel width of 45 m on the Doriganj-Ghazipur stretch (178 kms) through quantity based maintenance dredging contract (Mix & Match – IWAI dredger + SP-CSD from Service Provider). The estimated quantity of dredging required is 8.665 million CuM. The tender process is in progress.
- vii) Provision of LAD of 2.2 m and bottom channel width of 45 m on the Ghazipur - Varanasi stretch (133 kms) through Performance based Assured Dredging Contract. The estimated quantity of dredging required is 7.120 million CuM.
