GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2392
ANSWERED ON- 09.12.2019

GANGA WATERWAY FROM VARANASI TO HALDIA

2392. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are being made to make the Ganga waterway from Varanasi to Haldia suitable for freight to promote shipping activities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the water level in the Ganges is quite low, specially in summer season, at many places, along the route; and

(c) if so, the details of Governments' plan to deal with this challenge and desilting of river bed, in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR SHIPPING
(SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) Yes, Sir. National Waterway (NW)-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia) is already operational and vessels are plying on it. In addition, Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is being implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 5369.18 crore for the capacity augmentation of navigation on NW-1 on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. The project includes development of various infrastructures such as construction of multimodal terminals at Varanasi, Sahibganj & Haldia, Ro-Ro terminals, navigational lock at Farakka, channel marking systems, integrated vessel repair and maintenance facilities, automated information systems of Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) and River Information System (RIS), day and night navigation aids, river training and river conservancy works for fairway development. Projects worth Rs. 1800 crore (approx.) have commenced on ground in a time period of three years after statutory clearances.

(b) & (c) The water level at times reduces to less than 2 m in some stretches due to seasonal variation of discharge during lean season (January to June) which is monitored regularly by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Under JMVP, a comprehensive assured depth dredging management plan has been prepared with the aim to provide Least Available Depth (LAD) of 3m, 2.5 m and 2.2 m in stretches of Haldia-Barh, Barh-Ghazipur and Ghazipur-Varanasi respectively. The assured depth dredging works have commenced on NW-1.

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