

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 123
ANSWERED ON- 19/07/2021

NATIONAL WATERWAY IN KERALA

123. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal/ representation from Kerala Government to declare Calicut-Neeleswaram and Kovalam – Quilon waterway stretches as National Waterway; and
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SHANTANU THAKUR)

- (a) A proposal to declare waterway stretches from Kollam (Quilon) to Kovalam in South and Kottapuram to Hosdurg in North of Kerala as National Waterway was received from Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kerala in May, 2016. Calicut- Neeleswaram stretch is part of Kottapuram-Hosdurg waterway.
- (b) A Techno-Economic Feasibility (TEF) study through National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC- a Govt. of Kerala Institution) was conducted in 2014 with regard to extension of West Coast Canal in the South of Kollam (Quilon) up to Kovalam and North of Kottapuram up to Kasargod. TEF study found only Kottapuram - Kozhikode (Calicut) stretch in the North of Kottapuram technically feasible for development of shipping and navigation and accordingly extension of West Coast Canal up to Kozhikode (Calicut) in the North of Kottapuram was considered in the National Waterways Bill, 2015. Calicut- Neeleswaram stretch which is part of Kottapuram-Hosdurg stretch was not found feasible for development of shipping & navigation as per TEF report. The Kollam (Quilon) – Kovalam stretch (South of Kollam) was also not found technically feasible due to the presence of Varkala tunnel. The above position was conveyed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala in July, 2016.

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However, later Govt. of Kerala forwarded a proposal for formation of SPV for developing Inland Waterways from Kollam to Kovalam and Kozhikode to Kasargod at a cost of Rs. 6,000 crore. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala was informed by Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport Highways and Shipping vide D.O. dated 13.03.2018 that in the absence of any scheme of Govt. of India, the Shipping Ministry would find it difficult to provide financial assistance to implement fairways development of stretches which are not part of declared National Waterways (NWs).
