

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1424
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2023

INCREASE IN TRAFFIC ON NATIONAL WATERWAYS

1424. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

- (a) whether any increase in traffic on national waterways recorded in the last two years;
- (b) if so, the overall percentage increase in the national waterways traffic in the last two years in the country;
- (c) the overall percentage increase in traffic between Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia ;
and
- (d) whether any plan has been formulated to strengthen the infrastructure on waterways in view of the increased traffic, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Cargo Movement on National Waterways has recorded an overall percentage increase of 16 % (approx.) during 2022-23 over the year 2021-22.

(c) The traffic between Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia (NW-1) increased from 10.93 million ton in 2021-22 to 13.17 million ton in 2022-23 recording an increase of 20.52 %.

(d) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is implementing Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) between Haldia – Varanasi (1390 km) at an estimated cost of Rs. 4633.81 Cr. The objective of JMVP is to enhance transport efficiency and reliability of NW-1.

The project comprises of several components viz. development of multimodal terminals at Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia; intermodal terminal at Kalughat; fairway development, navigational facilities (Channel marking, Day/Night Navigational Aids, River Information System etc.); Community jetties, new navigational lock at Farakka, Modernization of existing navigational lock at Farakka; Quick Pontoon Opening System etc.
