

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1108**  
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2023

**INLAND WATERWAYS IN KERALA**

1108. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) the steps Government has taken to speed up the completion and enhance the functionality of the 205 km long Kollam-Kottappuram National Waterway III;
- (b) the details of Government's plan for promoting inland waterways in Kerala, and specific measures being implemented to encourage development of inland water transport; and
- (c) the progress of dredging and widening of National Waterways in Kerala, including any milestones achieved and challenges being addressed?

**ANSWER**

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

(a)& (b) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has undertaken various works in 205 km stretch of National Waterway-3 (NW-3) to develop and maintain a safe navigational channel of 2 m Least Available Depth (LAD), minimum width of 32 m, 24 hours navigational aids and 9 terminal facilities equipped with mechanical cargo handling equipment. Annual fairway developmental works and operation and maintenance of IWT terminals on NW-3 are taken up regularly. For further augmenting and enhancing the navigation capacity of NW-3, two projects namely reconstruction of Trikkunnappuzha lock at a cost of Rs.38 crore and construction of Kovilthotam Bridge at a cost of Rs.7.82 crore have been undertaken through Government of Kerala.

The initially declared NW-3 is functional with an annual movement of cargo of 32.28 lakh tons during 2022-23. To promote IWT in Kerala, IWAI has also deployed 2 Ro-Ro vessels at Kochi for Ro-Ro service between Bolgaty and Willington Island for transportation of containers to ICTT Vallarpadam, which reduces the city road traffic.

(c) IWAI has undertaken the dredging and widening activities in Kerala and completed about 95% of the works. The balance works at Edappalikkotta - Kollam stretch has been tendered four times but could not get prospective bidders due to presence of hard strata. Revision of estimate has been initiated with a view to re-tender the balance work

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