

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1902**  
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2023

**CARGO MOVEMENT THROUGH RIVER SYSTEM**

1902.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

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

- (a) Whether Government has drawn any plan for increasing cargo movement through river systems by collaborating with the private sector;
- (b) the steps being taken to make our river system sustainable and economical mode of transport; and
- (c) the present status of enabling more and more containerized cargo movement and building a network to use inland waterways for cargo shipment?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) IWAI has entered into MoUs with a number of private cargo owners/ shipper/ e commerce companies for increasing cargo movement through river systems as detailed at **Annexure-1**.
- (b) To make our river system sustainable and economical mode of transport in the country, 111 waterways (including 5 existing NWs and 106 new) spread over 24 States have been declared as National Waterways (NWs) vide National Waterways Act, 2016 w.e.f. 12.04.2016. Feasibility Studies (FSs) of new NWs have been completed and subsequent Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) also completed on selected NWs on the basis of FSs. Action plan has been formulated for development of 26 viable NWs based upon the outcome of study reports and development taken up in 20 NWs.
- (c) There is negligible containerized cargo movement on inland vessels in India. However, IWAI is encouraging the private sector to invest in container vessels through various stakeholders conferences. Further, terminals and waterways are developed with a view to handle both bulk and containerized cargo.

### Annexure-1

Details of MoUs with a number of private cargo owners/ shipper/ e commerce companies for increasing cargo movement through river systems as detailed at

S. no.	Agency (1st Party)	MoU Name	2nd party	Potential Thematic Area
1	IWAI	Facilitating inland vessel operation	M/S Tata Steel Ltd	Operation of barges and O&M of Jetties
2	IWAI	Facilitating cargo movement	M/s. Brahmaputra Crackers & Polymer Ltd.	cargo movement
3	IWAI	Facilitating ODC and product movement	M/s. Numaligarh Refinery	cargo movement
4	IWAI	Operation & Management of Terminal at Maia for transportation on IBP Route 5&6	M/s. Rajesh Auto Merchandize Pvt.Ltd., Jimex International & Cambridge Construction	O&M of Terminal at Maia
5	IWAI	Movement of Gypsum	Ultra Tech. Cement Ltd.	cargo movement
6	IWAI	For facilitating the movement of Cargo on National Waterways	A to Z EXIM	Additional cargo movement on NWs till 2030
7	IWAI	For facilitating the movement of Cargo on National Waterways	Star Cement	Additional cargo movement on NW-2 & IBP route
8	IWAI	For facilitating the movement of Cargo on National Waterways	Yogayatan Ports Pvt. Ltd.	Cargo Movement
9	A to Z EXIM	To explore the possibility of transportation of cargo from NW-2 to various destination of NER, Bangladesh and other countries	IBCCI	Exim cargo

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