

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 957
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2024

DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND WATERWAYS IN TAMIL NADU

957. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

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

- (a) whether Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is developing inland waterways system to promote alternative modes of transportation;
- (b) the environmental safeguards in place to protect the aquatic life and ecosystems along Tamil Nadu's rivers because of the inland waterways development;
- (c) the manner in which IWAI is planning to integrate tourism into the inland waterways development in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) what measures are being taken to ensure that local people/communities in Tamil Nadu benefit from the infrastructure projects; and
- (e) how the Inland Waterways in Tamil Nadu will contribute to reducing transportation costs for industries and enhancing trade?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) Yes. Before undertaking any development activities, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) undertakes the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) studies for compliance of the laid down norms as prescribed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change duly safeguarding the aquatic life and ecosystem. Necessary approvals wherever required are obtained.

(c) IWAI intends to engage with Department of Tourism, Govt. of Tamil Nadu under a framework of MoU for potential cruise tourism development in Inland Waterways in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Before taking up any developmental activity, Detailed Project Report (DPR) is prepared duly encompassing the economic benefits accruing to the catchment area and the recommendations of DPR are followed to the extent possible.

(e) IWT mode is a cheaper mode of transport vis a vis other modes of transport i.e Road/Rail and modal shift of commodities to this mode may reduce the logistics cost. The major industrialization along the River Banks of Tapi (NW-100), River Amba (NW-10), River Jaigad Creek-Shastri River (NW-91) is a prime example which collectively moves around 98.67 MMT of Cargo on inland waterways.
