

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2875
ANSWERED ON 25.03.2025

DEVELOPMENT OF WATERWAYS IN ODISHA

2875. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

SMT. SULATA DEO:

DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plans to develop inland waterways in the State of Odisha, especially along the Mahanadi, Chilika Lake and other rivers to promote water-based transportation;
- (b) the key projects or initiatives underway or planned for the development of waterways infrastructure in Odisha, including ports, terminals, docks and navigation systems; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to promote tourism through waterways in Odisha, particularly in regions like Chilika, Paradeep and Mahanadi Delta?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Government of India through Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has taken up development of six declared National Waterways (NWs) i.e. Brahmani & Mahanadi Delta & East Coast Canal (NW-5), Baitarni River (NW-14), Birupa River - BadiGenguti - Brahmani River System (NW-22), Buddha Balanga River (NW-23), Mahanadi River (NW-64) and Subarnarekha River (NW-96) in the State of Odisha for both cargo and river cruise tourism. The details of development activities in the State of Odisha are as follows: -

- i. Development of NW-5 for evacuation of coal through Talcher coal fields and connectivity to Pankapal Industrial area.
- ii. Jetty for river cruise tourism around Bhitarkanika Forest on Baitarni River (NW-14).
- iii. Birupa River - BadiGenguti - Brahmani River System (NW-22) - river cruise to connect the "Diamond Triangle" of the "Ratnagiri-Udayagiri-Lalitgiri" complex.
- iv. Buddha Balanga River (NW-23) - river cruise from Hidden Beach (Chandipur) to Balasore city.
- v. Mahanadi River (NW-64) - Class-VII standard waterway (carrying capacity of 2000 DWT vessels), navigational aids and passenger jetties at Bahakud-Musadia for ferry service.

- vi. River Subarnarekha (NW-96)- river cruise connecting Panteighat to Bichitrapur Mangroves and Bhusandeswara Temple(Asia's largest Shivlingam) and adjoining Digha Sea Beach (in West Bengal) with dedicated floating jetties at each location.
- vii. Development of Chilika Lake comes under the domain of State Government of Odisha. However, IWAI may provide technical assistance sought by State Government of Odisha.
