

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 316**  
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2025

**WATERWAYS ON MAHANADI RIVER**

316. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any action plan for the development of inland-waterways in the rivers of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the rivers and the waterways included in the action plan, State-wise, including Odisha;
- (c) whether there is any specific plan for Odisha in this regard;
- (d) whether Government has any plans to develop inland-waterways in the Mahanadi River of Odisha, which has great historic significance for trade with Southeast Asian countries; and
- (e) whether Government has any plans to set up a port on the Mahanadi River at Cuttack?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Yes. To promote Inland Water Transport (IWT) in the country, 111 waterways [including 5 pre-notified National Waterways (NWs) and 106 new waterways] spreading over 24 States were declared as National Waterways under the National Waterways Act, 2016.

Based on the outcome of Techno-Economic Feasibility Study and Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the NWs, 26 NWs have been found feasible for cargo and passenger movement. Action Plan has been formulated for development of 26 NWs which were found viable for cargo and passenger movement as detailed at Annexure – I.

(c) & (d) Yes. The details of developmental activities in Odisha for 6 declared National Waterways, in consultation with Government of Odisha, are as follows: -

- i. NW-5– Development of infrastructure for evacuation of coal through Talcher coal fields and providing connectivity to Pankapal Industrial area with the ports of Dhamra and Paradeep with this an annual cargo carrying capacity of 30 MMTPA.
- ii. NW-14 (Baitarni River) – Provision of floating jetty alongwith navigational aids for promoting river cruise tourism across Bhitarkanika forest.

- iii. NW-22 (Birupa-BadiGenguti-Brahmani River System) – The necessary infrastructure i.e. floating jetties at each site, fairway and navigational aids to promote river cruise tourism connecting the "Diamond Triangle" of the "Ratnagiri-Udayagiri-Lalitgiri" complex.
  - iv. NW-23 (Buddha Balanga River) – Necessary infrastructure i.e. floating jetties at 2 locations alongwith navigational aids to promote river cruise tourism from Hidden Beach(Chandipur) to Balasore city.
  - v. NW-64 (Mahanadi River) – Maintaining the fairway to Class-VII standard (carrying capacity of 2000 DWT vessels) and provisioning of navigational aids along with passenger jetties for Bahakud-Musadia ferry service.
  - vi. NW-96 (Subarnarekha River) – Necessary infrastructure i.e. floating jetties at 3 locations alongwith navigational aids to promote river cruise tourism from PanteiGhatto Bichitrapur Mangroves and Bhusandeswara Temple(Asia's largest Shivlingam) and adjoining Digha Sea Beach (West Bengal).
- (e) Yes. IWAI has initiated action for setting up a fixed jetty on behalf of IFFCO on Mahanadi River (NW-64).

**Annexure - 1****Status of the development of 26 New National Waterways (NWs):**

Sl. No	NW	Details of Waterways	STATES	Status
1	NW 1	Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Haldia - Allahabad)	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal	Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP). The major components are Multi-modal Terminal at Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia, Construction of New Navigational Lock at Farakka, modernisation of old lock gate at Farakka, Kalughat Intermodal Terminal, and Fairway Development
2	NW 2	Brahmaputra River (Dhubri - Sadiya)	Assam	Comprehensive Development of NW-2. The major components are Construction of Bogibeel cargo terminal, Construction of terminal at Jogighopa, Development of Approach Road from Pandu Port Terminal to NH-27 and Development of Ship Repair Facility at Pandu, Guwahati (Assam) and fairway development.
3	NW 16	Barak River (Lakhipur -Tuker Gram)	Assam	Comprehensive Development of NW-16 & Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBP) The major components are Construction of Terminal at Sonamura on Gumti river, Up gradation of Badarpur and Karimganj Terminals, Construction of Office building, and residential complex alongwith boundary wall in Silchar and Procurement of one Amphibian Dredger and Survey Vessel and fairway development.
4	NW 3	West Coast Canal (Kottapuram - Kollam), Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals	Kerala	

5	NW 4	Krishna River (Vijayawada – Muktyala)	Andhra Pradesh	Development of 23 nos. National Waterways (consisting of NW-3, NW-4, NW-5 and 16 new NWs) for the purpose of shipping & navigation. The major components are Fairway Development, Terminal Development and allied Infrastructure, Hydrography Survey, charting & RIS etc.
6	NW 5	Dhamra-Paradip via Mangalagadi to Pankopal	Odisha	
7	NW 8	Alappuzha- Changanassery Canal	Kerala	
8	NW 9	Alappuzha - Kottayam – Athirampuzha Canal	Kerala (Alternate route: 11.5km)	
9	NW 27	Cumberjua River (Cortalim-Ferry to Sao MartiasVidhanParisad)	Goa	
10	NW 68	Mandovi River (Usgoan bridge to Arabian Sea)	Goa	
11	NW 111	Zuari River (Sanvorden bridge to Marmugao Port)	Goa	
12	NW 86	Rupnarayan River (PratapPur to Geonkhali)	West Bengal	
13	NW 97	Sunderbans Waterway (Namkhana to AtharaBankiKhal)	West Bengal	
14	NW 40	Ghagra River (Faizabad to ManjhiGhat)	Bihar & U.P.	
15	NW 52	Kali River (Kodasalli Dam to Sadashivgad Bridge, Arabian Sea)	Karnataka	
16	NW 44	Ichamati River (Bridge at Gobra to Bansjhari near Bangladesh Border)	West Bengal	
17	NW 57	Kopili River (BanthaiGaonTinali Bus Stop to Chandrapur No.2 confluence with Brahmaputra)	Assam	
18	NW 31	Dhansiri River (MorongiT.E. village Bridge to Numaligarh)	Assam	
19	NW 10	Amba River (Arabian Sea, Dharamtaar Creek to Nagothane ST Stand)	Maharashtra	
20	NW 28	Dabhol Creek Vasisti River (Arabian Sea at Dabhol to Bridge at Pedhe)	Maharashtra	
21	NW 73	Narmada River (Pandhariya to Gulf of Khambhat)	Maharashtra & Gujarat	
22	NW 100	Tapi River (Hatnur Dam to Gulf of Khambhat)	Maharashtra & Gujarat	
23	NW 37	Gandak River (Bhaisalotal Barrage to Hazipur)	Bihar & U.P.	Mostly operational waterways for development by 2030.
24	NW 25	Chapora River (Bridge near Maneri village to Morjim, Arabian Sea)	Goa	
25	NW 85	Revadanda Creek - Kundalika River System (Arabian Sea at Revadanda to Bridge near Roha Nagar)	Maharashtra	
26	NW 94	Sone River (Sone Barrage, Dehri to Confluence with the Ganga)	Bihar	

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