

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2707
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2025

NATIONAL WATERWAYS WITHIN TAMIL NADU

2707. SHRI R. DHARMAR:

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

- (a) the details of major infrastructure upgrades planned or being implemented on National Waterways within Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the specific National Waterways in Tamil Nadu being prioritized for these infrastructure upgrades and the timelines for their completion;
- (c) the steps Government is taking to ensure that the infrastructure upgrades will enhance the capacity, safety and sustainability of the National Waterways in Tamil Nadu, particularly in terms of facilitating smooth cargo and passenger transportation; and
- (d) the measures adopted to ensure that the local communities and ecosystems along the National Waterways in Tamil Nadu are not adversely impacted by the infrastructure development?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The details of major infrastructure upgrades envisaged on National Waterways (NWs) in Tamil Nadu are given in **Annexure**.
- (c) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, endeavours to provide infrastructure adhering to Maritime standards that are robust and environment friendly like- floating jetties with navigational aids and requisite fairway for 24X7 passenger/cargo transportation.
- (d) For taking up any developmental activity, Detailed Project Report (DPR) is prepared duly encompassing the economic benefits accruing to the catchment area. Additionally, to safeguard the ecosystem, Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plans (EIA-EMP) are also carried out to mitigate the potential damages to the ecosystem.

Major infrastructure upgrades envisaged on National Waterways in Tamil Nadu:

(i) Buckingham Canal (constituent of NW-4): Jetties development for Cargo/River Cruise Tourism circuits on the following stretches:

- Mahabalipuram to Ediyur Bridge
- Cooum River portion of Buckingham Canal near Marina Beach
- Pulicat Lake
- Ennore Port to ETPS for Cargo movement

(ii) River Bhavani (NW-20): Jetty for River Cruise Tourism at Bhavani-Sangmeswar Temple.

(iii) River Kaveri-Kollidam (NW-55): Jetty for River Cruise Tourism near Chidambaram

(iv) River Pazhyar (NW-77): Jetty near Kanyakumari for River Cruise Tourism and for Cargo Movement.

(v) River Ponniyar (NW-80): Jetty for River Cruise and Cargo Movement.
