

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3033**  
ANSWERED ON 19.08.2025

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE INLAND WATER TRANSPORT SECTOR**

3033. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to strengthen the Research & Development (R&D) facilities for the development of Inland water transport sector as recommended by the 358th Parliamentary Standing Committee Report 2023;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry has conducted any R&D studies for the environmental impact assessment of national inland waterways; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has established National Inland Navigation Institute (NINI) in 2004 in Patna to promote research and impart training for sustainable growth of the Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector. IWAI envisages to upgrade the NINI into a Centre of Excellence (CoE) through fresh investments aimed at enhancing existing infrastructure and introducing new facilities. IWAI has also established the Maritime Skill Development Centre (MSDC) in Guwahati in year 2024 to cater to IWT Sector training demands in the Northeast region. Additionally, establishment of a Regional Centre of Excellence in Dibrugarh, Assam is envisaged to serve as key enablers in building a skilled workforce aligned with the evolving needs of the IWT sector in India.

(c) & (d) IWAI undertakes Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) studies for development works being undertaken by IWAI, as per the laid guidelines of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC). A list of EIA and EMP studies conducted by IWAI is at **Annexure**.

**List of Environmental Studies conducted by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI):**

1. Environmental Impact Assessment- Environment Management Plan (EIA-EMP) studies of NW-3 from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogamandal & Champakara Canals.
2. Environmental Impact Assessment for International Steamer Route in Sunderbans as National Waterways.
- 3.. Environmental studies for extension of National Waterways (NW)-3 from Kollam to Kovalam & Kottapuram to Kasaragod through M/S Wilber Smith Associates.
4. Environmental study for development of navigation in Kakinada- Pondicherry canal along with rivers Godavari & Krishna.
5. Environmental study for development of navigation in East Coast Canal along with rivers Brahmani and Mahanadi delta.
6. Before implementation of Jal Marg Vikas Project on NW-1 (the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system) from Varanasi to Haldia (1390 km), following studies have been completed:
  - (a) EIA-EMP Reports for the Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia Multimodal terminals,
  - (b) Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) Reports for the Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia Multimodal terminals,
  - (c) SIA & RAP and EIA-EMP Reports for the new Navigation Lock at Farakka,
  - (d) EIA Report for the Turtle Sanctuary near Varanasi and
  - (e) Consolidated EIA Report for NW-1.

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