

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1916
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2025

INLAND WATERWAYS AND TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT IN TRIPURA

1916. SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering linking Tripura to the inland waterways project;
- (b) whether any new initiatives are being taken to increase waterway trade from Tripura to the Chittagong and Ashuganj ports in Bangladesh;
- (c) whether there are any plans to declare the Gumti or Haora rivers within the State as navigable waterways; and
- (d) whether any assessment has been done to ascertain the potential of increasing local trade, tourism and employment generation from these projects?

ANSWER

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

(a) Tripura is connected to Kolkata via inland waterways through the Sonamura (India)-Daudkandi (Bangladesh) stretch of the Gumti River declared as Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route 9 and 10 and onward from Daudkandi to Kolkata via IBP Routes 1 and 2.

(b) Yes. The development of the Inland Water Transport (IWT) terminal at Sonamura has been completed. Channel improvement work between Sonamura to Daudkandi has been agreed to in 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) between India and Bangladesh held on 19th December, 2023. A joint survey has been conducted. However, a formal proposal from Bangladesh has not yet been received. Daudkandi to Chittagong is connected through IWT/coastal route but is not a part of IBP route.

(c) Development of the Sonamura (India)- Daudkandi (Bangladesh) stretch of Gumti River has been agreed in the cost sharing ratio of 80 (India) and 20 (Bangladesh) in the 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee under PIWT&T between India and Bangladesh. Further, few stretches of

Gumti River have been taken up by the Government of Tripura for improvement of navigability under Central Sector Scheme for development of IWT in North Eastern Region (NER) States. However, no proposal has been received from Government of Tripura for improvement of navigability in Haora river.

(d) The Sonamura-Daudkandi (Gumti River) waterway project has the potential to boost cross-border trade, tourism opportunities such as river cruises in Dumbur-Sonamura cruise circuit, local employment, logistics activities and regional connectivity. Currently, Inland Waterways Authority of India an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has taken up the work for Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation.
