

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1920
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2025

**MODERNISATION OF INLAND WATER TRANSPORT FACILITIES IN THE
NORTH-EASTERN STATES**

1920. SHRI RWNGWRA NARZARY:

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

- (a) the transformative initiatives to modernise inland water transport facilities in the North-Eastern States with special focus in the mighty river Brahmaputra in the State of Assam;
- (b) whether the Ministry is planning to develop river cruise tourism in the North-Eastern States of India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The transformative initiatives to modernize inland water transport facilities taken up in the North- Eastern States (NER) are given below:
 - (i) Comprehensive development of National Waterway (NW)- 2 (Brahmaputra River) has been undertaken at the cost of Rs.498 Crore during 2020-21 to 2024-25. Important projects include construction of Bogibeel and Jogighopa terminals, tourist jetties at Bogibeel and Pandu, regular fairway development works, navigational aids for smooth shipping and navigation. Further, construction of Ship Repair Facility at Pandu and elevated road connecting National Highway-27 with Pandu Port and Ship Repair Facility have also been taken up at a cost of Rs. 419 Crore.
 - (ii) Comprehensive development of NW-16 (Barak River) has been undertaken at a cost of Rs. 134.72 Crore from 2020-21. Important projects include upgradation of terminals at Badarpur and Karimganj, fairway development, maintenance of Navigational aids, procurement of Amphibian dredgers etc.

(iii) The NW-57 (Kopili River) was operationalized with the movement of 300 metric tonnes of cement from Chandrapur (Kamrup) to Hatsingimari (South Salmara–Mankachar).

(iv) Under the Central Sector Schemes (CSS) for development of IWT in NER States, projects have been sanctioned for terminal and fairway development and procurement of small passenger vessels.

(b) to (d) Yes. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) is actively promoting river-cruise tourism in the NER. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous organisation under MoPSW is developing dedicated cruise terminals on NW-2. The location earmarked for development of cruise terminals are Guwahati, Neamati, Biswanath Ghat, Silghat, and Guizan. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) comprising of Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited, IWAI and Inland Water Transport and Tourism Department of Assam Government has taken up the work of development of religious tourism circuit connecting seven temples namely; Lachit Ghat, Aswanta Temple Ghat, DouL Govinda Mandir Ghat, Hanuman Mandir Ghat (Uzan Bazar), Umananda Ghat, Pandunath Ghat, and Kamakhya Temple, using suitable vessels on a hop-on hop-off model.
