

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 320
ANSWERED ON 02.12.2025

NATIONAL WATERWAY-16 IN ASSAM

320. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

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

- (a) the present operational status of 121 km Long Lakhimpur to Bhanga National Waterway-16 in Assam;
- (b) the original and revised timelines fixed for making this stretch fully operational and the extent of physical and financial progress achieved so far;
- (c) the total funds sanctioned, released and utilised for the development of National Waterway-16, since its inception, year-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the completion and ensure full operationalisation of the Lakhimpur to Bhanga stretch for seamless navigation and trade connectivity in the Barak Valley region?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) National Waterway (NW) –16 is currently operational from Bhanga to Ujjainigram, covering a stretch of 48 km. Between Ujjainigram and Silchar (23 km), there is no cargo movement due to lack of demand. The section from Silchar to Lakhimpur (50 km) has shallow depth, making it unsuitable for navigation. However, cross-ferry services continue to operate at multiple locations along the NW-16 for passenger movement. The year-wise details of fund sanction and release for various developmental activities on NW-16 are given below:

Sl. No	Year	Details of Work	Sanctioned Amount (in Rs. Cr.)	Expenditure (in Rs. Cr.)
1	2017-18	Dredging in Bhanga – Ujjainigram	41.00	14.17
2	2018-19			23.35
3	2019-20			3.48
4	2020-21	Hydrographic Survey	0.30	0.30

5	2021-22	(i) Upgradation and renovation of terminals at Karimganj and Badarpur (ii) Hydrographic Survey	2.66 0.46	0.83
6	2022-23	Hydrographic Survey, Fairway, Operation and Maintenance of Terminal etc.	2.47	1.81
7	2023-24	(i) Upgradation and renovation of terminals at Karimganj and Badarpur (ii) Development of Fairway, Terminal, etc.	4.27 3.18	4.43
8	2024-25	(i) Hydrographic Survey, Development of Fairway, Terminal, etc. (ii) Dredging through Dredging Corporation of India	3.09 3.95	5.43

(d) Inland Waterways Authority of India, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has undertaken various projects to operationalize NW-16. An amount of Rs.134.72 crore has been sanctioned for development of NW-16 with the following major components:

1. Renovation & upgradation of existing IWT terminals at Badarpur and Karimganj
2. Operation and Maintenance of Navigational marks (Day channel Marks) in Ujjainigram – Badarpur stretch of NW-16
3. Construction of Gangway & Pontoon for providing floating terminal facilities at Badarpur Terminal
4. Design, construction, delivery and commissioning of survey vessel
5. Construction of Crane Pontoon at Karimganj and Badarpur Terminal
6. Procurement of ten (10) Ramp Powered Lighter Vessel (RPL) single Screw Passenger vessels.
7. Procurement of Amphibian Dredgers
8. Assured depth dredging in Bhanga to Badarpur (10.5 km) stretch of NW-16
9. Development and Maintenance of fairway (Bandalling) in Ujjainigram – Badarpur stretch of NW-16
