

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 480
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2026

**MODERNISATION OF GHAZIPUR AND VARANASI RIVER PORTS UNDER SAGAR
MALA PHASE III**

480. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

- (a) whether Ghazipur and Varanasi river ports have been selected under Sagarmala Phase III for modernization and mechanisation;
- (b) whether dredging, berthing facility enhancement and development of warehousing terminals are being expedited;
- (c) whether any financial or technical partnership with private players, under PPP modalities, has been initiated; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has set a timeline for full operationalisation, including handling of exports of agricultural produce from Uttar Pradesh by the end of the year 2026?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As of now there is no scheme or initiative titled Sagarmala Phase-III under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), however, Sagarmala 2.0 Scheme is at the stage of formulation. The Government has sanctioned the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for augmentation of the navigational capacity of National Waterway (NW)-1 (from Haldia to Varanasi 1,390 kilometer stretch) under which, a Multi-Modal Terminal (MMT) with warehouse facilities has been constructed at Varanasi by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous organisation under MoPSW, and the terminal is operational. As of now, no terminal is proposed at Ghazipur. Dredging activities along the entire stretch from Varanasi to Haldia are carried out on a continuous basis to maintain the required fairway. The process for private operation under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) have been initiated at four (4) terminals on NW-1 including Varanasi. Haldia and Kalughat terminals have been handed over to PPP operators. Moreover, for development of Freight Village/Multi Modal Logistic Park (MMLP) near Varanasi MMT, an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Highways Logistics Management Limited has been signed.

(d) Varanasi MMT is operational for cargo movement and it is in the process of Custom notification to handle Exim cargo.
