

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1117
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2026

PLAN TO DEVELOP NEW PORTS

1117. SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) the number of ports in the country at present;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to develop new ports;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a proposal to construct a port in the Jalore–Barmer region of Rajasthan by bringing seawater through a canal is under consideration; and
- (d) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There are 12 functional Major Ports and 217 Non-Major Ports in the country.
- (b) Yes. Vadhavan Port on western coast has been sanctioned as a green field deep water port.
- (c) & (d) Government of Rajasthan (GoR) had prepared the pre-feasibility report for the development of an inland port/artificial canal in the Bakhasar region of Barmer district, Rajasthan. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) engaged the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways & Coasts (NTCPWC), IIT Madras, to carry out mathematical modelling and prepare the preliminary Detailed Project Report (DPR) for National Waterway-48 (NW-48: Jawai-Luni River and Rann of Kutch) passing through Barmer district. The mathematical model study indicated that the route alignment from Bhawatra to Kandla Creek is a better option, while the alignment between Bawatra and Kori Creek was found to be unviable. NHAI has requested Government of Rajasthan to update the traffic study report accordingly.
