

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2706
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT ON THE MAHANADI

2706. SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to develop inland water transport on the Mahanadi river, particularly covering Cuttack and Paradip;
- (b) the present status of such proposals;
- (c) the funds allocated; and
- (d) the expected benefits for cargo movement and tourism?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) In the Union Budget 2026–27, the Government has announced the operationalization of National Waterway-5 (NW-5) in Odisha to connect the mineral-rich regions of Talcher and Angul and Industrial Centres such as Kalinga Nagar, with the ports of Paradip and Dhamra, including the Mahanadi delta Network. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), a statutory body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the development of NW-5 at an estimated cost of ₹13,096 crore. The development of NW-5 is expected to reduce congestion in cargo movement by a modal shift from road and rail to environmental friendly and cost-effective inland waterways.

IWAI has also proposed to construct jetties for river Cruise Tourism and local communities at 07 locations along Mahanadi River, i.e, Dhubaleswar, Naraj, Baliput, Badmul, Kamaladiha, Kantilo (Bhitarkanika Temple & Nilamadhava Temple), thereby promoting river-based tourism, enhancing passenger connectivity, creating livelihood opportunities for local communities and contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the region.
