

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2708
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026

POTENTIAL OF INLAND WATERWAYS FOR FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

2708. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

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

- (a) the details of cargo handled by major ports during the last five years, port-wise;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the potential of inland waterways for freight transportation;
- (c) the status of projects undertaken under the Sagarmala Programme; and
- (d) the measures taken to reduce logistics costs through port modernization?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The details of cargo handled by major ports during the last five years, port-wise is at **Annexure – I.**
- (b) The Government has declared 111 inland waterways as National Waterways (NWs). Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has made feasibility study to assess the potential for freight transportation of declared NWs and has undertaken development activities for operationalisation of feasible NWs. At present total 32 NWs have been made operational and 218 Million Tonnes (MT) has been transported on these NWs during 2025-26.
- (c) Details of completed and under implementation projects pillar wise under Sagarmala Scheme is at **Annexure – II.**
- (d) The Ministry has undertaken several port modernisation and infrastructure development initiatives to augment major port capacity, mechanise and modernise operations, improve connectivity, reduce logistics cost and ensure global trade competitiveness. As a result, the average Turnaround time of Major Ports improved from 96 hours in 2014-15 to 48.8 hours in 2025-26. Additionally, the One Nation One Port Process (ONOP) has been implemented to standardise and simplify port procedures across all ports, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and reducing vessel turnaround times.

Annexure – I**Port Wise details of cargo handled by major ports during the last five years****(In Million Tonnes)**

Ports	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Deendayal Port	127.10	137.56	132.37	150.16	160.11
Mumbai Port	59.89	63.61	67.26	68.63	75.15
Jawaharlal Nehru Port	76.00	83.86	85.82	92.12	102.01
Mormugao Port	18.46	17.33	20.62	18.13	21.01
New Mangalore Port	39.30	41.42	45.71	46.01	50.05
Cochin Port	34.55	35.26	36.32	37.75	38.06
V.O. Chidambaranar	34.12	38.04	41.40	41.72	43.31
Chennai Port	48.56	48.95	51.60	54.96	57.90
Kamarajar Port	38.74	43.51	45.28	48.41	49.08
Visakhapatnam Port	69.03	73.75	81.09	82.62	91.17
Paradip Port	116.13	135.36	145.38	150.41	156.45
Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port	58.18	65.66	66.39	63.95	70.87
Overall	720.05	784.31	819.23	854.86	915.17

Annexure-II**Details of Completed and under Implementation projects pillar wise under Sagarmala Scheme since inception (2015)**

	Completed			Under Implementation		
Pillar	No. of projects	Project Cost (Rs. Cr)	MoPSW Share (Rs. Cr)	No. of projects	Project Cost (Rs. Cr)	MoPSW Share (Rs. Cr)
Coastal Community Development	19	1,912.56	376.58	24	2,148.35	813.54
Coastal Shipping and IWT	25	1,178.54	546.13	17	1,167.68	503.51
Port Connectivity	17	1413.21	323.69	3	201.29	82.88
Port Modernization	18	870.20	552.67	6	160.81	86.49
Grand Total	79	5,374.51	1,799.07	50	3,678.13	1,486.41
