

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2715
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WATERWAY CORRIDORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

2715. SHRI I. S. INBADURAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any study to identify new inland waterway corridors across the country for promoting cargo and passenger transportation, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the State-wise details of new waterways identified, surveyed and proposed for development during the last three years and the current financial year;
- (c) whether Government has conducted feasibility studies regarding navigability, cargo potential, environmental impact and economic viability of newly identified waterways, if so the details thereof ; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to develop additional National Waterways beyond the existing notified waterways, if so, the details thereof and present status?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) To promote inland water transport in the country, 111 inland waterways across India have been declared as National Waterways (NWs) vide the National Waterways Act, 2016. As on date, 32 NWs are operational for the purpose of cargo and passenger movement. Further, in pursuance of the budget announcement for 2026-27 and based on studies, 19 additional new NWs have been identified predominantly for cruise tourism and passenger ferry operations over the next five years. Details of these NWs are given in the Annexure.
- (d) It has been the focus of the Government to first develop the already declared and feasible NWs for cargo and passenger transportation before declaration of new NWs in the country.

Annexure

National Waterway	State
FY 2026-27	
NW-49 (Jhelum River), NW-26 (Chenab River) and NW-84 (Ravi River)	Jammu & Kashmir
NW-51 (Kabini River) and NW-90 (Sharavati River)	Karnataka
NW-88 (Sal River)	Goa
FY 2027-28	
NW-52 (Kali River) and NW-41 (Ghataprabha River)	Karnataka
NW-22 (Birupa–Badi–Genguti–Brahmani System) and NW-96 (Subarnarekha River)	Odisha
FY 2028-29	
NW-25 (Chapora River)	Goa
NW-13 (AVM Canal) and NW-59 (Kottayam–Vaikom Canal)	Kerala
FY 2029-30	
NW-89 (Savitri River & Bankot Creek), NW-28 (Dabhol Creek–Vashishti River)	Maharashtra
NW-20 (Bhawani River)	Tamil Nadu
FY 2030-31	
NW-98 (Sutlej River)	Himachal Pradesh & Punjab
NW-76 (Panchgangavali River)	Karnataka
NW-37 (Gandak River)	Uttar Pradesh
