

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2717
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026

OPERATIONALIZATION OF NATIONAL WATERWAYS

2717. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the current progress regarding Government's plan to operationalize 20 new National Waterways over the next five years;
- (b) the total volume of bulk cargo transported through the existing 32 operational waterways during the last financial year;
- (c) whether the development of multi-modal terminals and navigational fairways on National Waterway-5 has successfully commenced to aid mineral transport;
- (d) the details of financial allocations explicitly dedicated to continuous capital dredging to maintain required river depths; and
- (e) the steps taken to establish dedicated ship repair ecosystems for inland vessels?

ANSWER

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

- (a) In pursuance of the Budget Announcement for 2026-27, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has identified 20 NWs (19 new NWs and NW-5) for operationalisation during next five years. The year-wise development plan is given at Annexure.
- (b) A total of 218 million metric tonnes cargo was transported through the existing 32 operational NWs during 2025-26.
- (c) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for 'Development of NW-5' has included the construction and development of terminals, Barage/ weirs, Navigational Aids, etc. and the project is under PPPAC and PIB appraisal/ approval process.
- (d) No capital dredging is being undertaken by IWAI on NWs.
- (e) The Government has undertaken development of Ship Repair Facilities at Pandu (Assam on NW-2), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh on NW-1) and Patna (Bihar on NW-1).

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) and 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
NW-5 (Mahanadi & Brahmani delta system, Matai River & East Coast Canal)	Odisha
