

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2737
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH DECEMBER, 2018
PROMOTION OF COASTAL SHIPPING

2737. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

पोत परिवहन मंत्री

- (a) whether it is a fact that inland waterways transport is proving to be game changer in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that cargo traffic on National Waterway-1 is expected to touch 21.89 million tonnes by 2021 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that this modal shift in transport is another step towards promoting coastal shipping as a cost effective means of transportation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) & (b): Inland Water Transport (IWT) mode is widely recognized as an environment friendly and cost effective mode of transport. In addition, IWT aims to create for the shippers and logistic players, an alternative to the two dominant modes of transport i.e. road and rail.

During 2017-18, 55.03 Million Tonnes (MT) of cargo was transported on all National Waterways (NWs) out of which 5.48 MT was transported on National Waterway (NW) -1.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is implementing the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for augmentation of navigation capacity of NW-1 on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch. As per the IWT sector development strategy and business development study conducted under JMVP, based on the implementation of various necessary interventions for capacity under JMVP, cargo movement of 21.89 MT has been projected on NW-1 during 2021-22.

(c) & (d): Several NWs connect the hinterland with ports and coastal areas. The development of NWs will provide seamless connectivity for landlocked States and hinterland with ports and coastal routes, thereby integrating inland waterways and coastal shipping.

To promote inland navigation with coastal shipping the Government has recently issued Guidelines for issuance of "Statement of Compliance" (SOC) to inland vessels intending to trade within 5 Nautical Miles from the base line (inshore traffic corridor) in fair season and under fair weather conditions.
