

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3080
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH JULY, 2019

POTENTIAL OF INLAND WATERWAYS

3080. DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

पोत परिवहन मंत्री

- (a) whether the country's inland waterways have been utilized to their full potential;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the country's cargo transported through inland waterways during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any proposal to increase the use of inland waterways and coastal shipping for greater cargo shipment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total funds sanctioned and utilised for the development of waterways in the country during the said period?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR SHIPPING
(SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b) 111 inland waterways (including existing 5 National Waterways) were declared National Waterways (NWS) under the National Waterways Act, 2016 to create a network of National Waterways to optimize the full potential of Inland Waterway Transport (IWT). The list of these NWS river/ waterway-wise is at **Annex-1**. Development of these waterways has been taken up in phased manner for shipping and navigation. The details of cargo transportation during the last three years and the current year are as under:

Year	Quantity (in million tonnes)
2016-17	55.20
2017-18	55.03
2018-19	72.31
2019-20	14.59 (up to May, 2019)

(c) & (d) Following initiatives have been taken by the Government to increase the use of Inland Waterways and Coastal Shipping for greater cargo shipment:

- i. Provision of assured fairway with targeted depth, navigation aids for round the clock operation, floating or permanent terminal facilities at various locations, facilities for mechanized handling of cargo, fortnightly thalweg surveys, issue of river notices, Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) stations, River Information System (RIS), providing pilotage service, close interaction with prospective shippers and operators etc.
- ii. Ministry of fertilizers has agreed to provide subsidy for transportation of fertilizers through IWT mode equivalent to road and rail modes.
- iii. Similarly, Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has also included IWT in their scheme for providing subsidy for transportation of raw materials and finished goods for new industrial units in North Eastern Region (NER).
- iv. Discounts of minimum 40% on vessel and cargo related charges for coastal vessels at Major Ports.
- v. Notification of priority berthing for coastal vessels at Major Ports to reduce turn-around time.
- vi. Licensing relaxations under section 406 and 407 of the merchant shipping act 1958 for the following commodities.
 - Fertilizers.
 - Agricultural, fisheries, horticultural, and animal husbandry.
 - Empty containers and containers being transhipped from another India port.
 - Special vessels such as Ro-Ro, Ro-Pax, Project cargo/ODC, etc.
- vii. Allowing the carriage of coastal containers through the territorial waters of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- viii. Streamlining of mechanism for freight subsidy reimbursement for fertilizers.