

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 555  
ANSWERED ON 09/12/2022

**ANANTHA VICTORIA MARTHANDAM CANAL**

555. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal to restore the Anantha Victoria Marthandam Canal (AVM Canal) connecting Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram to Kanyakumari as a National waterway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including, the estimated cost and duration of the project;
- (c) the details of projects identified for National Waterways in the State of Kerala and in the district of Thiruvananthapuram; and
- (d) the total estimated expenditure for these projects along with allocation /utilisation and the status of the implementation of these projects?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) No proposal has been received to restore the Anantha-Victoria-Marthandam Canal (AVM Canal) connecting Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram to Kanyakumari. However, Government declared AVM Canal as National Waterway (NW)- 13 from Poovar Beach to Erayumanthurai Bus Stop (11.3 km) {2.8 km in Kerala and 8.5 km in Tamil Nadu} vide National Waterways Act, 2016.

Feasibility Study of AVM Canal (NW-13) completed in 2016 reveals that canal is having less than 1.2 m draft in 10.60 km and presently unfeasible for shipping and navigation due to minimum vertical clearance of 0.5 m on bridge across the canal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Development of following National Waterways (NWs), of Kerala in the district of Ernakulam, Alappuzha & Kollam has been taken by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) -

1. NW-3- West Coast Canal (Kottapuram - Kollam), Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 km);

2. NW-8- Alappuzha- Changanassery Canal (29 km) and
3. NW-9- Alappuzha - Kottayam – Athirampuzha Canal (40 km)

(d) An expenditure of Rs.102.91 cr. in last 5 years has been incurred on these projects-(Rs. in Crore)

<b>Budget Head/Waterways</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
NW-3 (West Coast Canal, Kerala) including NW-8 & 9	29.09	14.97	26.06	21.52	11.27

Further, an allocation of Rs. 26.00 cr. has been approved by the Government for development of these NWs in Kerala during the year 2022-23 to 2023-24. Status of implementation of these projects is at **Annex. -1**.

**The present status of ongoing development works in the National Waterway in Kerala**

Name of the Project	Status of Project
<b>(A) NW-3 (West Cost Canal Kottappuram-Kollam Canal, Champakara-Udyogamandal Canal)</b>	
a. Construction of new Navigational Lock at Thrikkunnappuzha, at a cost of Rs. 38 Cr.	Construction entrusted to State Irrigation Department and Work under progress (Progress 58%).
b. Construction of Road over Bridge at Kovalthottam, at a cost of Rs.5.55 Cr (on 50% cost sharing basis with KMML).	Work entrusted to Harbour Engineering Department Govt. of Kerala.
c. Execution of balance capital dredging and widening in Edappallikotta and Kollam stretch, at a cost of Rs.6.75 Cr.	Tendering was cancelled due to non-eligibility of bidders. Retendering / NIT processed
d. Lifting of 5 nos. High Tension Lines across Champakkara canal entrusted to Kerala State Electricity Board at a total cost of Rs. 5.15 Crore in February 2019.	The work undertaken through Kerala State Electricity Board. 80% Progress achieved.
e. Repair of 40' Navigational lock at Thanneermukkom entrusted to Irrigation Department, Govt. of Kerala at a total project cost of Rs. 2.85 Crores.	Work completed by State Irrigation Department in January 2020.
f. Lifting of High Tension Line at Karuthedam in Kochi – Kottappuram stretch entrusted with KSEB at a total cost of Rs. 1.12 Crores.	Work completed in January, 2020.
g. Annual fairway maintenance works in NW-3 at a cost of Rs.7.42 cr. is approved during the FY 2021-22.	Annual maintenance works commenced in April 2022 for F.Y. 2022-23
h. Operation and maintenance of IWT terminals in NW-3, at a cost of Rs.2.28 cr. is approved during the FY 2021-22.	
i. Annual maintenance works in NW-8 & NW-9, at a cost of Rs.1.13 cr. is approved during the FY 2021-22.	
<b>(B) NW-8 (Alappuzha-Changanassery Canal)</b>	24 hours navigational aids (15 nos.) provided at critical locations and being maintained.
<b>(C) NW-9 (Alappuzha - Kottayam – Athirampuzha Canal)</b>	Night navigation facilities have been installed and maintained.

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