

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)

Budget Head/Waterways	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
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**.