

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3963
ANSWERED ON 24/03/2023

FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN THE WATERWAYS

3963. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to run regular cruise/ferry services between the waterways in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has made any DPR for public transportation service between Dibrugarh-Guwahati, Kolkata-Murshidabad, Varanasi-Prayagraj and other routes to run regular water services between the said towns; and
- (c) if so, the details and the salient features of the DPR?

ANSWER

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

(a) The mandate of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is to develop and regulate National Waterways (NWs) for shipping & navigation. However, the infrastructure developed for transportation on national waterways by IWAI including fairway, terminals, jetties, navigation aids etc. is used by the river cruise operators/ferry operators also. IWAI plays the role of a facilitator for cruise/river tourism on national waterways.

River cruise/tourism has been a regular feature on NW-1 (the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system), NW-2 (the Brahmaputra) & NW-3 (West Coast Canal in Kerala) since the last few years. Various private companies are operating cruise vessels on NW-1, 2 & 3.

(b)&(c) The operation of Passenger Ferry services come in the purview of the State Govt. IWAI is maintaining the fairway between Dibrugarh-Guwahati and Kolkata-Murshidabad.
