

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4870  
ANSWERED ON 31/03/2023

RO-RO/RO-PAX FERRY

4870. SHRI RAMESH CHAND BIND:  
SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):  
SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to connect all Major and non-Major ports through waterways on the line of RO-RO/RO-PAX ferry services along the coast of India;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to connect all ports along the coast for viable waterways ecosystem, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether tourist potential cities along the western coast will be taken up, on priority to enhance tourism in the region; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government and the number of ports identified under the proposal, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Objective is to connect all Major and non-Major ports along the coast of India with most efficient, green and economic mode of transport, including river waterways wherever possible.

Out of the 111 National Waterways (NWs) declared under National Waterways Act, 2016, 9 NWs provide connectivity with 7 Major Ports and 14 NWs provide connectivity with 22 non major ports. The NWs linking the Ports in the coastal States are detailed at **Annexure 1**.

(c) & (d) In view of immense potential and distinct advantages of ferry services, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is financially supporting 47 projects with total project cost of Rs. 1960 crore. Out of the 47 Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax/Passenger ferry projects in the ports of various states, 5 projects are in the State of Gujarat, 28 in Maharashtra, 5 in Karnataka and 1 in Goa. Details of 47 projects are at **Annexure 2**. Apart from facilitating cargo and passenger movement, this will also provide cost effective and eco-friendly transport to the tourists.

Further, under the ambit of Sagarmala Program, Ministry has operationalised Ro-Pax Ferry service between Ghogha-Hazira in Gujarat and Mumbai-Mandwa in Maharashtra bringing the travel time to 3 hours and 45 minutes with an estimated carbon (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) reduction of 24 MT per day and 13 MT per day respectively. Till December, 2022 these services have benefited more than 13 lakh passenger and 2.5 lakh passenger vehicles contributing towards clean environment and public welfare.