

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1428
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

NATIONAL WATERWAYS PROJECT

1428.SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the current status of the National Waterways Project;
- (b) whether any difficulties are being faced in completion of the said project;
- (c) if so, the details of the efforts being made by Government to remove these difficulties;
- (d) the total number of routes identified under the said project in Karnataka; and
- (e) the number of waterways made functional out of the identified routes?

ANSWER

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

(a) For development of Inland Water Transport (IWT) in the country, 111 waterways (including 5 existing and 106 new) spread over 24 States have been declared National Waterways (NWs) under the National Waterways Act, 2016. On the basis of outcome of techno-economic feasibility study and Detailed Project Report (DPR) of these NWs action plan has been formulated for 26 NWs which were found viable for cargo and passenger movement. At present, development initiatives have been taken up in the 20 NWs. The detail is at **Annexure-I**.

(b) Major challenges for development of National Waterways include the varying and limited depths during lean season due to the excessive upstream withdrawal/utilization of water resulting in meandering and braiding of alluvial rivers, erosion of their banks causing excessive siltation, lack of cargo earmarked for IWT, non-mechanized navigation lock systems, insufficient unloading facility at terminals, horizontal and vertical clearance issues due to cross structures, first & last mile

connectivity, lack of vessel financing options and apprehension of logistics and shipping market to shift in absence of policy support hinder the use of IWT by shippers.

(c) Efforts made to overcome these challenges and to grow cargo movement through Inland Water Transport (IWT) are detailed at **Annexure.-2.**

(d) &(e) There are 9 NWs exclusively in Karnataka & 3 inter-State NWs which have been declared under National Waterways Act, 2016. After feasibility/DPR studies of all these NWs, Kali river (NW-52), Sharavati river (NW-90) in Karnataka & Tungabhadra river (NW-104) in Karnataka, A.P. & Telangana have been found feasible for tourism & ferry services. Govt. has provided an amount of INR 2.7 crore for development of jetty infrastructure in Kali river (NW-52) through the State Govt.

LIST OF 26 NATIONAL WATERWAYS (NWs) PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Sl. No.	NW No.	Details of Waterways	Length (Km)	STATES	Status
1	NW 1	Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Haldia - Allahabad)	1620	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal	Development taken up through Jal Marg Vikas Project
2	NW 2	Brahmaputra River (Dhubri - Sadiya)	891	Assam	Development taken up as per approved SFC for FY 2020-21 to 2024-25
3	NW 16	Barak River (Lakhipur -Tuker Gram)	121	Assam	
4	NW 3	West Coast Canal (Kottapuram - Kollam), Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals	205	Kerala	Mostly Operational Waterways and development and maintenance work taken up.
5	NW 4	Krishna River (Vijayawada – Muktyala)	82	Andhra Pradesh	
6	NW 5	Dhamra-Paradip via Mangalagadi to Pankopal	233	Odisha	
7	NW 8	Alappuzha- Changanassery Canal	29	Kerala	
8	NW 9	Alappuzha - Kottayam – Athirampuzha Canal	40	Kerala (Alternate route: 11.5km)	
9	NW 27	Cumberjua River (Cortalim-Ferry to Sao MartiasVidhanParisad)	17	Goa	
10	NW 68	Mandovi River (Usgoan bridge to Arabian Sea)	41	Goa	
11	NW 111	Zuari River (Sanvorden bridge to Marmugao Port)	50	Goa	
12	NW 86	Rupnarayan River (PratapPur to Geonkhali)	72	West Bengal	
13	NW 97	Sunderbans Waterway (Namkhana to AtharaBankiKhal)	172	West Bengal	
14	NW 40	Ghagra River (Faizabad to ManjhiGhat)	345	Bihar & U.P.	
15	NW 52	Kali River (Kodasalli Dam to Sadashivgad Bridge, Arabian Sea)	53	Karnataka	
16	NW 44	Ichamati River (Bridge at Gobra to Bansjhari near Bangladesh Border)	63	West Bengal	
17	NW 57	Kopili River (BanthaiGaonTinali Bus Stop to Chandrapur No.2 confluence with Brahmaputra)	50	Assam	
18	NW	Dhansiri River (Morongi T.E. village	110	Assam	

	31	Bridge to Numaligarh)			
19	NW 10	Amba River (Arabian Sea, Dharamtaar Creek to Nagothane ST Stand)	45	Maharashtra	
20	NW 28	Dabhol Creek Vasisti River (Arabian Sea at Dabhol to Bridge at Pedhe)	45	Maharashtra	
21	NW 25	Chapora River (Bridge near Maneri village to Morjim, Arabian Sea)	25	Goa	
22	NW 37	Gandak River (Bhaisalotal Barrage to Hazipur)	296	Bihar & U.P.	
23	NW 73	Narmada River (Pandhariya to Gulf of Khambhat)	226	Maharashtra & Gujarat	Mostly Operational Waterways for development by 2030.
24	NW 85	Revadanda Creek - Kundalika River System (Arabian Sea at Revadanda to Bridge near Roha Nagar)	31	Maharashtra	
25	NW 94	Sone River (Sone Barrage, Dehri to Confluence with the Ganga)	141	Bihar	
26	NW 100	Tapi River (Hatnur Dam to Gulf of Khambhat)	436	Maharashtra & Gujarat	

STEPS TAKEN FOR GROWTH OF CARGO TRANSPORTATION ON WATERWAYS**1. INITIATIVES FOR GROWTH OF TRAFFIC ON NATIONAL WATERWAYS**

- i. Fairway development works: Fairway development works to ensure Least Available Depth (LAD) of 3.0 meter in Haldia-Barh, 2.5 meter in Barh-Ghazipur and 2.2 meter in Ghazipur-Varanasi stretches on NW-1 have been taken up under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) which has been undertaken by IWAI with technical and financial assistance from World Bank. Similarly, to improve the connectivity between NW-1 and NW-2/NW-16 via the Indo Bangladesh protocol route, the critical and shallow stretches between Sirajganj and Daikhowa on protocol route No 1 & 2 and Ashuganj and Zakiganj on protocol route no 3 & 4 in Bangladesh are being jointly developed by India and Bangladesh for round the year navigability (with targeted LAD of 2.5 mtrs). Similarly, fairway development works have been taken up on NW-97 in Sunderbans to allow smooth navigation of vessels on the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.
- ii. Development of New National Waterways: IWAI has identified 26 new NWs through techno-economic feasibility studies for undertaking technical interventions to make the waterways navigable for transportation purpose.
- iii. Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax Service Commenced in Various National Waterways: The Operation of Ro-Ro / Ro-Pax vessels inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister during February 2021 for the following routes:

Vessel Name	Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax Services between	Date of Inauguration by Hon'ble Prime Minister
MV Rani Gaidinliu & MV Sachin Deva Barman	Neamati and Kamalabari (Majuli)	18.02.2021
MV JFR Jacob	Guwahati and North Guwahati	18.02.2021
MV Bob Khathing	Dhubri and Fakirganj (U/S Hatsingimar)	18.02.2021
MV Adi Shankara & MV C.V. Raman	Wellington Island and Bolghaty	14.02.2021

- iv. Revision of Levy & Collection of Fees: Taking ahead the vision of the Government of India to promote Inland Waterways as a supplementary mode of transport, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has considered waiver of waterway user charges initially for a period of three years.

2. DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR EASE-OF-DOING BUSINESS

Following digital solution for ease of doing business has been introduced by IWAI:-

- CAR-D (Cargo Data) Portal
- PANI (Portal for Asset & Navigation Information)

3. ENHANCED REGIONAL TRADE USING IWT MODE

- a. Addition of new Ports of Call and routes in India and Bangladesh under PIWT&T: With 7 new ports of call in addition to existing 6 on each side along with addition/extension of 2 waterway routes in addition to existing 8 routes under PIWT&T between India and Bangladesh, the accessibility of IWT mode for trade between India and Bangladesh is expected to increase and result in growth of traffic on NWs.
- b. Trade between Bhutan and Bangladesh: Stone exporters from Bhutan have identified Inland waterways as an alternate mode of transportation considering the benefits associated with waterways mode such as lower transportation cost, larger shipment size compared to road, avoiding congestion on land routes etc.

4. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS) FOR FACILITATING THE STAKEHOLDERS TO USE INLAND WATER TRANSPORT AND ACCESS THE VARIOUS INFORMATION RELATED TO NATIONAL WATERWAYS

The list of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for various National Waterways is available at IWAI website.

5. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

IWAI carried out stakeholder consultations at six different locations (Kolkata, Kochi, Mumbai, Patna, Goa and Dhaka) in FY-20, 9 nos. during FY-21 and 06 nos. conference-cum-webinars in FY22 for cargo promotion.

- PM GatiShakti Multimodal Waterway Connectivity Summit held in Varanasi from 11th -12th November 2022.
- Flagging off of world's longest river cruise and waterways development projects inaugurated and foundation stone was laid online by Hon'ble Prime Minister in the presence of Hon'ble Minister PSW, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 1^{3th} January 2023 at Varanasi.
