

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1537
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

CARGO TRAFFIC IN WATERWAYS

1537.SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether there are any schemes to ensure the arrangements of movement through inland waterways and if so, the details thereof along with the number of places selected under this scheme, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra and West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps for development of inland waterways for cargo shipments etc. and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken for promotion of water based transport system in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) &(b) 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**.

(c) Steps taken for growth of cargo transportation on waterways are at **Annexure - 2**.

LIST OF 26 NATIONAL WATERWAYS (NWs) PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

| SI. No. | NW | 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 | Mostly Operational Waterways for development by 2030. |
| 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 | |
| 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 SachinDeve 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 AdiShankara & 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, 9nos. during FY-21 and 06 nos. conference-cum-webinars in FY22 for cargo promotion.

- PM Gati Shakti 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.
