

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1058
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

DEVELOPMENT OF WATERWAYS

1058. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

पत्तन, पोतपरिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government proposes to complete the development of water ways in Kollam Loksabha Constituency in a time bound manner;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the total central fund allocated/utilised for developing National Water Ways in Kollam from 2019 onwards;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to fix time frame for the completion of development of water ways in said area;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to ensure the transportation through National Water ways in Kerala within a fixed time frame;
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (h) the details of reasons for delay in the development of National Water Ways in Kerala?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b), (d) & (e) Out of 205 km of the National Waterway No.3, 17 Km stretch from Kannittakkadavu (Ch.164km) to Kollam (Ch.181km) is in the Kollam Lok Sabha Constituency which is operational. Capital dredging including widening and bank protection in the above stretch has been completed except for a length of 1.2 km due to want of dredged material disposal site. NHAI requested for dredging and taking out bed material from National Waterways for development of National Highways in southern part of Kerala and IWAI has issued NOC for the same subject to final permission by the Government of Kerala.

For large cargo vessel movement, reconstruction of an existing narrow foot over bridge at Kovilthottam has been entrusted on deposit basis with an advance of Rs. 1.38 cr. to the Harbour Engineering Department, Government of Kerala.

(c) The details of the fund allocation and utilization for developing National Waterways in Kerala from 2019 onwards is given at **Annex.-1**.

(f) Transportation through National Waterways of Kerala is already taking place. In NW-3, NW-8 and NW-9, about 32.79 Lakh Tonnes of Cargo has been transported in 2022-23.

(g) For promotion of IWT, successful trial run of container barge from Kochi Port to Kottayam Port has been conducted. Further, for movement of bigger cargo vessels on NW-3, reconstruction of navigational lock at Thrikkunnappuzha has been entrusted to Irrigation Department, Government of Kerala on deposit basis at a cost of Rs.38 crore. After completion of the construction of Thrikkunnappuzha navigational lock, appropriate size barges can move towards Chavara for economical movement.

(h) The details of reason for delaying the development of National Water Ways in Kerala are at **Annex.-2**.

Annex.-1

The details of the fund allocation and utilization for developing National Waterways in Kerala from 2019 onwards is as follows:

Financial Year	Budget Allocation (in Cr)	Actual Expenditure (in Cr)
2018-19	34.17	19.1
2019-20	50.18	28.74
2020-21	24.84	21.18
2021-22	19.07	11.38
2022-23	10.40	7.47

Annex.-2

The details of reason for delaying the development of National Water Ways in Kerala:

1. IWAI is pursuing with Government of Kerala to complete the reconstruction of navigational lock at Thrikkunnappuzha at an early date and also taken up the issues with Customs Department to include Water Transport in their EDI System to facilitate movement of Export and Import cargo to Kottayam Port through IWT mode.
2. The reason for delay in dredging projects is the non-availability of site for disposal of dredged materials. The Waterways in Kerala is comparatively narrow and both banks of the National Waterway is either thickly populated or wet land.
3. As per the prevailing norms in Kerala, reclamation of wet land is not permitted. The site for disposal of dredged material is to be allocated by the concerned District Collector as per the Government Order which is also getting delayed.
4. Since, the activities are taking place in thickly populated area, the interference of local people are also more and which leads to stoppage of works.
5. For reconstruction of foot over bridge at Kovilthottam, IWAI entrusted the work to Harbour Engineering Department and an amount of Rs.1.38Crores has deposited in 2017. But the work could not commence so far by Government of Kerala.
6. The reconstruction of navigational lock is entrusted to Irrigation Department, Government of Kerala in 2017. The total project cost of Rs.38Crores released to Government of Kerala and progress of the work is not satisfactory even though IWAI is regularly pursuing the matter with the State Government.
