

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.14
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

DEVELOPMENT OF KOVALAM-BEKAL WEST COAST CANAL

14. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the status of the development of Kovalam-Bekal West Coast Canal (WCC);
- (b) the reasons for the delay in the operationalisation of the Trikkunnappuzha Navigation Lock on National Waterway-3 (NW-3);
- (c) whether the Government has taken remedial steps to ensure smoother movement of cargo and vessels along NW-3; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Out of the Kovalam-Bekal West Coast Canal (WCC) waterway stretch, following stretches of 375 km have been declared as National Waterway-3 (NW-3) based upon the outcome/completion of feasibility studies and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs):
 - (i) Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of WCC (168 km) alongwith Champakara Canal (14 km) and Udyogamandal Canal (23 km) totalling 205 km declared in 1993 and
 - (ii) Further extension of Kottapuram to Kozhikode stretch (170 km) of WCC of NW-3 declared in 2016.

In the stretch mentioned at (i) above, fairway development work has been taken up in the channel of 32/38 m width & 2 m depth with 24 hrs. navigation buoys with lights, 11 nos. of permanent terminals for Inland Water Transport (IWT). Further, as per the DPR completed for stretch (ii) mentioned above, development is suggested only after cargo growth confirmation.

(b) Reconstruction of the Trikkunnappuzha Navigation Lock on National Waterway (NW)-3 has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 38 cr. through Government of Kerala and the reasons of delay conveyed by State Government are local floods, covid-19 and diversion of local traffic at site etc.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. In addition to waterway infrastructure developed on NW-3, efforts have been made for smoother movement and enhanced navigation capacity on NW-3 including reconstruction of wider navigation lock at Thrikkunnappuzha, replacement of narrow foot over bridge at Kovilthottam with sufficient navigational clearances and increase of height of high tension lines across NW-3 through the State Government of Kerala.
