

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1004
ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2021

OPENING OF WATERWAYS FOR PUBLIC

1004. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the names of those waterways which are being considered to be opened for public by the Government;
- (b) the action plan formulated by the Government to link Assam and North Eastern States through waterways; and
- (c) whether these schemes are being completed as per the fixed timeframe and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) To promote Inland Water Transport in the country 111 waterways (including 5 existing and 106 new) have been declared as National Waterways (NWs) under the National Waterways Act, 2016 which came into effect from 12th April, 2016. Based on the outcome of techno-economic feasibility and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of NWs, 25 NWs have been found viable by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for cargo/passenger movement. The list of the 25 NWs is at **Annex-I**. Developmental activities have been initiated in 13 NWs.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. With special emphasis on North Eastern States, IWAI has undertaken comprehensive development of NW-2 (Brahmaputra River) and NW-16 (Barak River) and Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route at the cost of Rs. 461 crore and 145 crore respectively to establish critical connectivity along with infrastructure development in the North East Region which would boost economic development and trade in the region by connecting hinterland. Details is at **Annex-II**.

In addition, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for development of inland water transport infrastructure in the North Eastern States under which 100% grants is provided to North Eastern States. Details of projects sanctioned under CSS is at **Annex-III**.

LIST OF 25 NATIONAL WATERWAYS FOUND FEASIBLE FOR CARGO MOVEMENT

Sl. No.	National Waterway No.	Details of Waterways	STATES	Status
1	National Waterway 1	Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Haldia - Allahabad)	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal	Development taken up with Assistance from World Bank Jal Marg Vikas Project
2	National Waterway 2	Brahmaputra River (Dhubri - Sadiya)	Assam	Development taken up as per approved SFC for FY 20-21 to 2024-25
3	National Waterway 16	Barak River	Assam	
4	National Waterway 3	West Coast Canal (Kottapuram - Kollam), Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals	Kerala	Mostly Operational Waterways and development and maintenance work taken up.
5	National Waterway 4	Krishna River (Vijayawada - Muktyala)	Andhra Pradesh	
6	National Waterway 5	Dhamra-Paradio via Mangalagadi to Pankopal	Odisha	
7	National Waterway 8	Alappuzha- Changanassery Canal	Kerala	
8	National Waterway 9	Alappuzha-Kottayam - Athirampuzha Canal	Kerala Alternate route: 11.5km	
9	National Waterway 27	Cumberjua River	Goa	
10	National Waterway 68	Mandovi River	Goa	
11	National Waterway 86	Rupnarayan River	West Bengal	
12	National Waterway 97	Sunderbans Waterway	West Bengal	
13	National Waterway 111	Zuari River	Goa	
14	National Waterway 10	Amba River	Maharashtra	Projects at appraisal stage.
15	National Waterway 40	Ghagra River	Bihar	
16	National Waterway 44	Ichamati River	West Bengal	
17	National Waterway 52	Kali River	Karnataka	
18	National Waterway 57	Kopili River	Assam	
19	National Waterway 25	Chapora River	Goa	
20	National Waterway 37	Gandak River	Bihar	
21	National Waterway 28	Dabhol Creek Vasisti River	Maharashtra	Substantial cargo moves in tidal waters/river mouth under respective State maritime board. No interventions are contemplated by IWAI as of now.
22	National Waterway 73	Narmada River	Maharashtra & Gujarat	
23	National Waterway 85	Revadanda Creek - Kundalika River System	Maharashtra	
24	National Waterway 94	Sone River	Bihar	
25	National Waterway 100	Tapi River	Maharashtra & Gujarat	

Details of project of NER:

1. Development of NW-2 at a cost of Rs. 461 crore during 2020-21 to 2024-25 has been undertaken by IWAI. The waterway is being maintained with fairway of 1.5 m to 2.5 Least Available Depth (LAD) and 45 m width, with day and night navigation aids and terminals.

A navigable fairway of 45-meter width and 2.5 meter Least Available Depth (LAD) from Dhubri to Dibrugarh (768 km) and 1.5-meter LAD from Dibrugarh to Sadiya (123 km) is operational for movement of cargo. IWAI is taking necessary action to maintain NW-2. The development of NW-2 enables waterway connectivity of North East region with Kolkata/ Haldia ports via Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.

(i) There are 17 activities approved for NW-2. Out of these 17 activities, 03 are of permanent nature viz, (i) Construction of Jogighopa terminal, (ii) Alternative Road to Pandu Port, and (iii) Ship repair facility at Pandu. The remaining 14 activities are of recurring nature viz., (i) Fairway development (ii) O&M of navigational aids (iii) O&M of fixed & floating terminals (iv) O&M of vessels (v) Consultancy training (vi) Maintenance of e-portal etc. These activities are carried out on annual basis.

2. Development of NW-16 and IBP route at a cost of Rs. 145 crore during 2020-21 to 2024-25 has been undertaken by IWAI.

Declared as National Waterway-16 (NW-16), Barak river connects Silchar, Karimganj and Badarpur in Cachar valley of Assam through road/ waterway with Haldia and Kolkata ports through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route. Development for fairway maintenance with Least Available Depth (LAD) along with navigation aid between Silchar to Bhanga commenced in November, 2017. Action for upgradation of Badarpur and Karimganj terminals including customs and immigration facility at Karimganj terminal has been initiated.

(i) There are 10 activities as approved for NW-16 & IBP route. Out of these 10 activities, 03 are of permanent nature viz, (i) Construction of Terminal at Sonamura on Gumti river, (ii) Construction of terminal at Maia on Ganga river and (iii) Upgradation of Badarpur and Karimganj terminals. The remaining 07 activities are of recurring nature viz., (i) Fairway development (ii) O&M of navigational aids (iii) Consultancy training (iv) cargo promotion, and (v) amenities at Ports of Call etc. These activities are carried out on annual maintenance basis.

3. Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route :

Dredging for the development of fairway from Sirajganj to Daikhowa (175 km) and Ashuganj to Zakiganj (295 km) on Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route has commenced for providing 2.5 m depth & 30 m wide navigational channel as per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 08th April, 2017 between Govt. of India and Bangladesh for 07 years at cost sharing of 80:20. The dredging has commenced from March, 2019 in Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch and in April, 2019 in Sirajganj-Daikhowa stretch to provide seamless connectivity of NW-1 with NW-2 & NW-16.

Projects sanctioned under Central Sector Scheme in NE States
(To be implemented by the respective State Governments)

Sl. No.	State	Name of Project	Project Cost (₹ in Cr.)
1	Assam	Construction of 15 Nos. (17.0m long) floating terminals at 15 Ghats on NW-2 (Assam)	6.07
		Construction of 15 Nos. of (17.0m long) floating terminals at 15 Ghats on NW-16 (Assam)	6.37
		Construction of 25 Nos. (17.0m long) floating terminals at 25 Ghats on NW-2 (Assam)	10.97
		Construction of 16 Nos. (25.0 m long) floating terminals at 16 Ghats on NW-2 (Assam)	13.70
2	Manipur	Loktak Inland Water Transport Project-II on Loktak Lake (Manipur)	7.88
		Loktak Inland Waterways Improvement Project for Loktak Lake (Manipur)	25.58
3	Mizoram	Preparation of DPR for Tuichawang / Karnaphuli River (Mizoram)	0.57
4	Tripura	Setting up of linkage with Meghna river system in Bangladesh by developing Gumti River (Tripura)	12.58
