

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 5036
ANSWERED ON 01/04/2022

CONNECTIVITY OF NORTH EASTERN REGION WITH BANGLADESH

5036. SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a roadmap to improve connectivity in the North Eastern Region through waterways with Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a terminal in the Uluberia on Hooghly river in West Bengal and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the development works undertaken for the National Waterway in Rupnarayan River in West Bengal?

ANSWER

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

(a & b) Yes, Sir. The details of the projects undertaken to improve connectivity of NE States through waterways with Bangladesh are placed at **Annex. – 1**.

Further, Central Government has sanctioned following projects to improve connectivity in the North-Eastern Region (NER) using Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route for a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25: -

- i. NW-2 (Dhubri-Sadiya stretch of river Brahmaputra) at a cost of Rs. 461 cr; and
- ii. NW-16 (river Barak) & Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route at a cost of Rs.145 cr.

Details of above projects are at **Annex.-2**.

Further under Centre Sector Scheme (CSS), IWT projects have been sanctioned for implementation through State Governments in NE Regions. The details thereof are indicated in **Annex-3**.

- (c) At present, there is no proposal to set up terminal at Uluberia (W.B.).
- (d) Details of the development works undertaken for the National Waterways in Rupnarayan River in West Bengal is at **Annex-4**.

1. North Eastern States are connected with Eastern parts of India through river Brahmaputra (NW-2) and river Barak (NW-16), Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghli river system (NW-1) via Sundarbans (NW-97) and Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route under a Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) between India and Bangladesh since 1972. PIWT&T is valid till March 2025 and renewable every 5 years on mutual consent of both the countries. Under this Protocol, Inland vessels / cruises of one country can ply on the designated waterway routes of another country with following ROUTES & PORTS OF CALL:

- **ROUTES:** The designated Inland Water Routes under this protocol are:
 - 1 & 2 Kolkata – Silghat & vice versa : ~1720 km
 - 3 & 4 Kolkata – Karimganj/Badarpur & vice versa : ~ 1339 km
 - 5 & 6 Dhulian – Aricha & vice versa : ~270 km
 - 7 & 8 Silghat – Karimganj/Badarpur & vice versa: ~1437 km
 - 9 & 10 Sonamura- Daudkandi & vice versa : ~93 km
- **PORTS OF CALL :** Till May, 2020, there were six Ports of Call each in India and Bangladesh under the Protocol. Five more Ports of Call and two more extended Ports of Call have been added increasing the number to eleven Ports of Call and two extended Ports of Call in each country as listed below through 2nd Addendum to PIWT&T:

Bangladesh		India	
Ports of Call	Extended Ports of Call	Ports of Call	Extended Ports of Call
Narayanganj	Ghorasal	Kolkata	Tribeni (Bandel)
Khulna	--	Haldia	--
Mongla	--	Karimganj	Badarpur
Sirajganj	--	Pandu	--
Ashuganj	--	Shilghat	--
Pangaon	Muktarpur	Dhubri	--
Rajshahi	--	Dhulian	--
Sultanganj	--	Maia	--
Chilmari	--	Kolaghat	--
Daudkandi	--	Sonamura	--
Bahadurabad	--	Jogigopha	--

- **Fairway Development by Dredging of IBP Route in Bangladesh-** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on development of fairway from Sirajganj to Daikhowa and Ashuganj to Zakiganj on Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route between