

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**.

Annex. – 1

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

Govt. of India and Bangladesh was signed on 08th April 2017. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 305.84 cr. funded through Ministry of External Affairs to adopt a cost - sharing ratio of 80:20 between India and Bangladesh. The initial dredging has commenced from March'2019 in Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch and April'2019 in Sirajganj-Daikhowa stretch and completed in April 2021. The maintenance dredging for Ashuganj-Zakiganj and Sirajganj-Daikhowa stretch will be continued upto March-2026 and April-2026 respectively.

- In addition to above, for the use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports of Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU dated 06.06.2015), Agreement (dated 25.10.2018) and Standard Operating Procedure (SoP dated 05.10.2019) have been signed. It provides connectivity to Agartala (Tripura) via Akhura (Bangladesh); Dawki (Meghalaya) via Tamabil (Bangladesh); Sutarkandi (Assam) via Sheola (Bangladesh) and Srimantpur (Tripura) via Bibirbazar (Bangladesh) to Chattogram / Mongla Ports in Bangladesh.

Annex.-2

Details of infrastructure projects on National Waterways in NER:

(i) Comprehensive Project for development of National Waterway (NW)-2:

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has undertaken development of IWT projects on National Waterway-2 (River Brahmaputra) from Dhubri to Sadiya (891km) at cost of ₹461 cr. for a period of 5 years (2020-25). The salient features of the projects being taken up are development of navigable fairway with day and night navigation aids and terminals. The development of NW-2 enables waterway connectivity of North East region with Kolkata/Haldia ports via Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route. The major interventions under this project are viz, (i) Construction of Jogighopa terminal, (ii) Alternative road to Pandu Port, and (iii) Ship repair facility at Pandu, and (iv) Construction of Tourist Jetties at Biswanathghat, Jogighopa, Pandu and Neamati.

(ii) Comprehensive Project for development of NW-16 & IBP route: The development of IWT projects on National Waterway-16 & IBP route at cost of ₹145 cr. for a period of 5 years (2020-25) has been initiated with fairway maintenance and Least Available Depth (LAD) along with navigation aids. Action for upgradation of Badarpur and Karimganj terminals including customs and immigration facility at Karimganj terminal has been initiated. The major interventions under this project are - (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.

Projects sanctioned under Central Sector Scheme
(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 NW2 (Assam)	6.07
		Construction of 15 Nos. of (17.0m long) floating terminals at 15 Ghats on NW16 (Assam)	6.37
		Construction of 25Nos (17.0m long) floating terminals at 25 Ghats on NW2 (Assam)	10.97
		Construction of 16Nos (25.0m long) floating terminals at 16 Ghats on NW2 (Assam)	13.70
2	Manipur	Loktak Inland Water Transport Project-II on Loktak Lake (Manipur)	7.88
		Project proposal for utilizing the savings under CSS for "Survey of River Barak (Manipur side)"	0.40
		Loktak Inland Waterways Improvement Project for Loktak Lake (Manipur)	25.58
3	Mizoram	Preparation o DPR for Tuichawang / Karnaphuli River (Mizoram)	0.57
		Development of IWT on river Khawthlangtuipui- Tuichawng in Lunglei District, Mizoram	22.93
4	Tripura	Setting up of linkage with Meghna river system in Bangladesh by developing Gumti River (Tripura)	24.83

Annex-4

Details of development work undertaken in Rupnarayan river

- i. Construction of road from Denan Bungalow (near water front) to NH-41 for a length of 3.90 KM to facilitate the movement of cargo by IWT mode in Rupnarayan river was entrusted to Irrigation & Water Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal at a cost of Rs. 15.45 cr has been completed.
- ii. Construction of steel pontoon & gangway, at a cost of Rs. 1.53 cr. has been completed.
- iii. Transfer of 1.78 acres land at a cost of Rs. 1.08 cr. through Govt. of West Bengal at Mouza Amalhanda, J.L. No. 291 under P.S Panskura in the district of Purbamedinipur to IWAI for development of Port Terminal in the river Rupnarayan (NW-86)
