

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 656  
ANSWERED ON 04/02/2022

**IMPROVEMENT IN INLAND WATER TRANSPORT**

656. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P. P.:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the details of various schemes and projects launched for improving inland water transport in the country;
- (b) whether any special scheme has been initiated by the Government to enhance the logistical capability in the waterways of Kerala and Lakshadweep; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) To promote Inland Water Transport (IWT) in the country, 111 waterways (including 5 existing and 106 new) were declared as National Waterways (NWs) under the National Waterways Act, 2016. Based on the outcome of techno-economic feasibility and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) prepared for NWs, action plan has been formulated for 25 NWs which have been found viable for cargo/ passenger movement. The list of the 25 NWs is at **Annex-1**. Development activities have been initiated in the first 13 NWs out of the 25 viable NWs. In addition, there is a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for development of inland water transport infrastructure in the North Eastern States under which 100% financial assistance is provided to North Eastern States.

(b) & (c) The stretch of Kollam to Kottapuram of West Coast Canal and Champakara canal & Udyogamandal Canals (205 km) in Kerala was declared as National Waterway (NW-3) in 1993. It has been further extended by 165 km in the North from Kottapuram to Kozhikode in April, 2016 by the National Waterways Act, 2016. Development of waterways for the stretch of Kollam to Kottapuram of West Coast Canal and Champakara canal & Udyogamandal Canals has been completed except for 1.20 km between Edappallikotta & Kollam and is being maintained with a channel of 2 m Least Available Depth and 32/ 38 m bottam width. NW-3 is operational with 24 hours navigational facilities, 9 permanent intermodal terminals with storage facilities and mechanized equipment for loading/ unloading of cargo. Further, the construction/ modification of existing navigational lock at Thrikunnapuzha in NW-3 at a cost of Rs. 38 core has been entrusted to Irrigation Department, Govt. of Kerala.

Development of two more National Waterways viz. NW-8 (Alappuzha – Chenganaserry) and NW-9 (Alappuzha-Kottayam-Athirampuzha) has been taken up to have enhanced hinterland connectivity through waterways with Kochi Port.

There is no declared National Waterways (NWs) in Lakshadweep and therefore no scheme to enhance the logistical capability of the same has been taken up by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

**LIST OF 25 NATIONAL WATERWAYS FOUND FEASIBLE FOR CARGO/  
PASSENGER 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 <b>Jal Marg Vikas Project</b>
2	National Waterway 2	Brahmaputra River (Dhubri - Sadiya)	Assam	Mostly Operational Waterways and development and maintenance work taken up.
3	National Waterway 16	Barak River	Assam	
4	National Waterway 3	West Coast Canal (Kottapuram - Kollam), Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals	Kerala	
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	

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