

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2033
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2024

ISSUE OF SILT IN BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

2033. SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the ferry service between Nimati - Kamalabari channel has been disrupted due to large amount of silt in Brahmaputra river;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether such problems are also being observed in other rivers of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the different types of dredging techniques being used in the country at present?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes. In one of the secondary channel from Nimati to Kamalabari, siltation had developed resulting in disruption of ferry service. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) after getting this information acted with detailed Thalweg Survey and deployed dredgers augmented by other means (like bandalling & channel marking) to maintain the required fairway. The ferry service was resumed on 30.10.2024. However, there is very low discharge in this channel and the secondary/ narrow channel cannot be used. To resume the Nimati - Kamalabari route, the berthing location on Kamalabari has been shifted to main channel. Presently, the ferry is operational from the new berthing location.

(c) & (d) Yes. Shallow depth near the river bank berthing point is common in rivers with vertical water level variation. It is common in the river Ganga and the river Brahmaputra. For example, shallow depth / siltation near Terminals at G R Jetty, Haldia Jetty, Tribeni Jetty etc. at Kolkata.

(e) Dredging is carried out to improve the depth in the navigation channel in river. The navigation channel is normally of 35 to 45 m width. Wherever the depth is recorded less than the required depth for navigation during the regular fortnightly hydrographic surveys, dredging is carried out to increase the depth. It is carried out by the deployment of different dredging techniques involving use of diverse dredgers viz. Cutter Suction Dredgers (CSD), Hydraulic Surface Dredgers (HSD) and Amphibian Dredgers (AD) which work both on CSD, bucket/grab dredging and hammering techniques.