

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3107
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

INLAND WATERWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE IN ASSAM

3107. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to involve local communities in the development and maintenance of inland waterways infrastructure in Assam;
- (b) if so, details of capacity building activities thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has data on employment generation resulting from ports and waterways development projects in Assam.
- (d) if so, the data of employment generated directly and indirectly through these projects, year-wise ;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted environmental assessments prior to the initiation of dredging and jetty construction projects in Assam; and
- (f) if so, the details of the environmental assessments undertaken and mitigation measures being implemented by the Government?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Local communities are involved in the development and maintenance of Inland Waterways infrastructure in Assam. A Maritime Skill Development Centre (MSDC) for capacity building in Inland Waterways Sector has been established at Guwahati to cater to the need of Assam and North East. 24 batches (467 candidates) have been imparted training in the sector so far. The direct employment generation through river ports and waterways development projects in Assam for the year 2023-2024 is 2026. Inland Waterways sector provides indirect employment to number of persons connected with cargo movement, passenger movement and tourism, etc. data of which is not maintained.

(e) & (f) Prior environmental clearance is not required for Inland Water Transport (IWT) projects as per existing guidelines since the fairway maintenance dredging activities are limited to navigation channel of width 35 to 45 m to improve the existing depth of less than 2 m to 2.5 m. Jetty/terminal construction on the banks of river is taken up as per existing environmental guidelines and mitigation measures followed.
