

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4266
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

WATERWAY FROM PRAYAGRAJ TO HALDIA PORT

4266. SHRI LAXMIKANT PAPPU NISHAD:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide permanent job to the lakhs of people of Nishad Community whose livelihoods are in danger due to the waterways being built on the river Ganga from Prayagraj to Haldia Port of India;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating to provide permanent job to one family member of each of the family who are losing their jobs due to construction of this waterway;
- (c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided;
- (d) the city-wise details of the population that is going to be affected from Prayagraj to Haldia, Kolkata due to this waterway;
- (e) whether any workshop has been organised so far, to hear the problem of the people being affected by this waterway, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the fund sanctioned by the Government for this work?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system between Haldia and Prayagraj (1620 km) was declared as National Waterway-1 (NW-1) in 1986. To augment the capacity of NW-1 (from Haldia to Varanasi 1390 Kilometer stretch), Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 3rd January, 2018 at the estimated cost of Rs. 5369.18 Crore. Since then, under JMVP, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an

autonomous organisation under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has undertaken various developmental works on the waterway for improvement of its navigability and also development and maintenance of other infrastructure such as navigation aids and terminal facilities. The JMVP has the potential to create more than 1.3 lakh direct and indirect employment. The detailed study regarding Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been carried out and as per the study, the project does not have any significant adverse impact on livelihood of any community.

To promote cross ferry movement, development of 60 community jetties has been taken up under Jal Marg Vikas Project-II (JMVP-II) by IWAI. Out of which 49 community jetties have already been completed. These community jetties provide simple logistics solutions for small farmers, fishery units, unorganized farm producing units, horticulturists, florists and artisans and other marginalised communities living along NW-1. These jetties enhance the accessibility and utility of NW-1, particularly for rural and semi-urban communities. These jetties aim to facilitate the movement of people, goods, and services in an eco-friendly and cost-effective manner. Under JMVP, consultancy Services for stakeholders engagement, livelihood support and communication for Inland Water Transport (IWT) promotion on NW-1 has been engaged. More than 75 community meetings at district level along NW-1 have been conducted to educate on livelihood enhancement with the use of IWT infrastructure and use of waterway as an alternate and cheap mode of transport.
