

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4286
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

INLAND WATERWAY IN ODISHA

4286. SHRI AVIMANYU SETHI:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to revive the historic Coast Canal, which passes through Bhadrak district in Odisha, as an inland water transport channel to provide an alternative mode of transportation for the district's residents;
- (b) whether the Ministry has assessed the potential benefits of canal revival, including its role in protecting coastal villages from saline water ingress and high tides during cyclones, as well as preserving this unique heritage of the British era;
- (c) the estimated timeline, funding allocations, and specific infrastructure improvements that would be included in the canal revival project, if approved; and
- (d) whether the Government will prioritize sustainable development and resilience measures as part of the canal's restoration and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPS&W) is mandated to develop National Waterways for the purpose of shipping and navigation. Over the years, IWAI is maintaining fairways and developing infrastructures in waterways. The infrastructure so developed is being used for passenger and cargo transportation. IWAI had prepared a DPR in the year 2009 (duly updated in 2016) for riverine portion (Talcher-Dhamra/Paradip) of NW-5 from navigation point of view.

(c) & (d) The estimated cost of revival of canal was Rs 2709.04 Crore (as per DPR of 2009) with a timeline of 5 years which necessitates relocation/reconstruction of 93 road/foot bridges and construction of 23 new navigational locks for movement of vessel with maximum capacity of 300 Tonnes. Since, the existing DPR is old one, a fresh feasibility study is required for deciding revised cost, estimated timelines and future course of action.
