

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3497
ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

DEVELOPMENT OF BUCKINGHAM CANAL

3497. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the urgent need for the development of the Buckingham Canal as part of the inland waterways network, considering its historical significance in trade and transport along the eastern coast of India;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to declare the Buckingham canal a National Waterway and if so, the details of the plans, timelines and budget allocations therefor;
- (c) the manner in which the revitalization of the Buckingham Canal will enhance cost-effective and environmental friendly cargo transport between coastal cities and ports and the measures being taken to achieve this; and
- (d) whether the Government has evaluated the socio-economic benefits of developing the Buckingham canal, especially regarding tourism and livelihood opportunities for local communities, particularly those in fishing and transport?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Buckingham Canal consisting of 316 km long North Buckingham Canal (Pedaganjam to Central Station Chennai) and 110 km long South Buckingham Canal (Central Station Chennai to Marakanam) is constituent of National Waterway-4 (NW-4). Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared in 2008 and updation of DPR has been taken up by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Further, IWAI has identified potential tourism/cargo movement in Buckingham Canal and have requested Government of Tamil Nadu for undertaking cargo/river cruise tourism projects under a framework of co-operation as portions of Buckingham canal are encroached. A total provision of Rs 19.17 crore has been made by Government of India for NW-4 for the FY 2022-2026.

(c) & (d) The revitalisation of Buckingham Canal entails cost efficient logistics for fisheries/local communities/ industries and reduction in congestion from road. The DPR prepared by IWAI in 2008 encompasses the socio-economic benefits of revival of this canal system.
