

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5453

ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF BUILDING WATERWAYS USING CEMENT CONCRETE

5453. DR. THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOLKAPPIYAN

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any data pertaining to the negative effects of building waterways using cement concrete on the preservation of groundwater levels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to substitute permeable materials in building waterways, water channels, canals, etc., to harvest and raise groundwater levels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is responsible for regulation and development of inland waterways {which have been declared as National Waterways-(NWs) through the National Waterways Act, 2016} for shipping and navigation as per IWAI Act, 1985. NWs are taken up for development as per the outcome of first stage feasibility studies report and thereafter second stage detailed project reports (DPRs). Waterways are not built artificially by IWAI. There is no use of Cement concrete in maintaining navigable depths.

As per Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), assessment of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of each State/UT is being carried out jointly by CGWB and State Nodal/Ground Water Department annually since 2022 as per the Ground Water Estimation Committee-2015 (GEC-2015) methodology. This methodology includes norms for estimating groundwater recharge from canals, taking into account whether the canal is lined or unlined.
