

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5573
ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

STATUS OF NATIONAL WATERWAYS

5573. SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:
SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that water transport is still not fully developed in Ganga, Brahmaputra, Yamuna and other rivers;
- (b) if so, the current status of the National Waterways (NWs) along with the number of waterways actually working;
- (c) whether the Government has plans to attract private sector and foreign investment to develop waterways infrastructure, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is likely to ensure that water transport is made more economical and commercially successful;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) During the year 2023-24, cargo movement of 12.82 million tons and 0.59milliontons was recorded on Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (National Waterway-1) and Brahmaputra river (National Waterway-2) respectively. To augment capacity of National Waterway (NW)-1 and NW-2, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has undertaken implementation of comprehensive development projects at the cost of Rs. 5061 Crore and Rs. 862 Crore respectively. Further, work for augmenting inland water transport infrastructure on other rivers including Yamuna at Mathura and Delhi have been taken up to tap the full capacity of water transport.
- (b) 29 National Waterways are presently operational for cargo/passenger movement.

(c) National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2015 have been notified by IWAI on 04.03.2015 under which private sector can develop jetties/terminals on the banks of NWs after obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from IWAI.

(d) to (f) IWAI has laid significant emphasis on developing and promoting inland water transport in India, which is economical and environment friendly. The infrastructure and policy measures taken by the Government to promote inland water transport (IWT) includes: (a) Infrastructure measures such as fairway maintenance works (river training, maintenance dredging, channel marking and regular hydrographic surveys), construction of community jetties, floating terminals, multi-modal terminals, inter-modal terminals and navigational lock etc. (b) Policy measures like; launch of Jalvahak Scheme, notification of National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminal) Regulations, 2015, integration with ports, digitalization, cargo aggregation, shift of cargo by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and promotion of river cruise tourism.
