

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2137
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025

NATIONAL WATERWAYS IN KERALA

2137. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय

- (a) the total length and number of notified National Waterways (NWs) in the State of Kerala;
- (b) the current operational status of each of these waterways, including passenger and cargo traffic handled during the last three years;
- (c) the details of developmental works undertaken on these waterways—such as dredging, terminal development, night navigation facilities and modernization projects in the State along with their physical and financial progress;
- (d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard based on the requests from the Member of Parliament and the State Government;
- (e) whether there are any delays or bottlenecks in implementation of such works due to environmental clearance, land acquisition or coordination with the State Government and if so, the measures taken to resolve them; and
- (f) the steps being taken to improve multimodal connectivity and promote eco-friendly and cost-effective water transport systems under the Sagarmala or Jal Marg Vikas Project in Kerala?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There are 5 National Waterways (NWs) in the State of Kerala as detailed below and the total length of these 5 NWs is 465.89 km:-
 - i. NW-3 (West Coast Canal including Champakkara and Udyogmandal Canal).
 - ii. NW-8 (Alappuzha – Changanassery Canal).
 - iii. NW-9 (Alappuzha – Kottayam Canal).

iv. NW-13 (AVM Canal).

v. NW-59 (Vechoor – Athirampuzha Canal).

(b)& (c) Three NWs namely NW-3, NW-8 and NW-9 are operational and the details of passenger/cargo movement during the last three years is as under:

Year	Passenger	Cargo (Lakh Tonne)
2022-23	95,79,806	32.07
2023-24	1,10,78,569	33.25
2024-25	1,12,76,234	35.59

Details of developmental works undertaken on these waterways with Physical & Financial progress is given in the Annexure-I.

(d) Government of Kerala requested the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways for initiating steps to declare the Kovalam to Kollam and Kozhikode to Bekal stretches of West Coast Canal as appropriate class (Class-I/Class-III) of NW according to the standards available. NW-3 stretch from Kottapuram to Kozhikode in Kerala vide National Waterways Act, 2016 has already been extended. Thus, NW-3 covers a total feasible stretch from Kozhikode in the north to Kollam in the south, out of entire waterway stretch from Bekal to Kovalam. The remaining stretch from Bekal to Kozhikode in north and Kollam to Kovalam in south could not be considered for declaration as National Waterway as per findings of the studies completed by National Transport Planning & Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

(e) There are issues pertaining to non availability of dumping grounds for dredged material required for fairway development and removal of fishing nets from the navigation channel earmarked by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, which are regularly taken up with the Government of Kerala for resolution.

(f) Details of steps taken by IWAI to improve multimodal connectivity and promote eco-friendly and cost effective water transport system in the country including Kerala are given in the Annexure-II. Jal Marg Vikas Project is for augmentation of navigation capability of NW-1 (Ganga River) from Varanasi to Haldia.

ANNEXURE-I

Details of developmental works undertaken on these waterways with Physical & Financial progress

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has constructed nine (9) terminals in NW-3 and has provided Ro-Ro service between Willingdon Island and Bolghatty Island. Additionally, IWAI funded the work for modernization of Navigation lock at Thrikunnapuzha and the construction of Kovalthottam foot over bridge through Government of Kerala on deposit basis. IWAI also undertakes bank protection works in NWs in Kerala at vulnerable locations. The status of various ongoing activities is as follows:

S.N.	Name of Development work	Physical Progress	Financial Progress
1.	Fairway Development Works (carried out annually)	15 %	11.78%
2.	Operation & Maintenance of Terminals (carried out annually)	25%	17.50%
3.	Modernization of Thrikunnapuzha Lock Gate	41%	100%
4.	Reconstruction of Kovalthottam Foot over Bridge (50 : 50 share of IWAI and the Government of Kerala)	78%	50%

ANNEXURE-II

Details of steps taken by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways to improve multimodal connectivity and promote eco-friendly and cost effective water transport system

- (i) Fairway maintenance works (river training, maintenance dredging, channel marking and regular hydrographic surveys) are taken up in various National Waterways (NWs) for providing a navigation channel of 35/45 m width and 2.0 / 2.2 / 2.5 / 3.0 m least available depth (LAD) for operation of vessels.
- (ii) 53 community jetties, 20 floating terminals, 3 Multi-Modal Terminals (MMTs) and 1 Inter-Modal Terminal (IMT) have been constructed on NW-1 (River Ganga) in addition to 5 pre-existing permanent terminals.
- (iii) 13 floating terminals provided on NW-2 (River Brahmaputra) along with MMTs at Pandu, Jogighopa and terminals at Bogibeel and Dhubri. Four dedicated Jetties for cruise vessels have been provided at Jogighopa, Pandu, Biswanath Ghat and Neamati. In addition to this, Jetties for cruise and passengers have been constructed at Sadiya, Lyka and Orium Ghat in Assam.
- (iv) 9 Permanent Inland Water Transport terminals with godowns and 2 Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax terminals have been constructed on NW-3 (West Coast Canal in Kerala).
- (v) 04 floating concrete jetties were provided to Govt. of Goa and installed in Mandovi River (NW-68).
- (vi) 04 Tourist Jetties on NW-4 (River Krishna) in Andhra Pradesh have been commissioned and 12 Nos. floating jetties on NW-110 (River Yamuna) in Mathura-Vrindavan stretch in Uttar Pradesh, 2 Jetties on NW-73 (River Narmada) & 2 Jetties on NW-37 (River Gandak) in Bihar are under execution.
- (vii) A new Navigation Lock at Farakka and 2 Nos. Quick Pontoon Opening Mechanisms (QPOMs) have been constructed on NW-1 to facilitate smooth & faster movement of vessels.
