

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1348
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2026

DREDGING WORK IN THE GANGA RIVER

1348. SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the objectives of undertaking dredging work in the Ganga River within the Bhagalpur Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar;
- (b) whether dredging activities have been initiated or proposed in this stretch of the Ganga, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the expected outcomes of the dredging work, particularly with respect to navigation, erosion control, flood management and local economic development in Bhagalpur?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The objective of dredging work is to maintain navigable depth of 3 meters in the navigation channel of 45 meters width for smooth movement of Cargo vessels in River Ganga, which has been declared as National Waterway -1 (Ganga – Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System). Out of the declared stretch of 1620 Kms, approximately 56 Kms from Kahalgaon to Sultanganj comes under Bhagalpur District. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has been deploying its departmental dredger in this stretch for undertaking dredging, wherever Least Available Depth (LAD) is less than 3 meters.

(c) Dredging work is undertaken on need basis to ensure smooth navigation enabling movement of vessels. Inland Water Transport is environment-friendly, economic and fuel-efficient in comparison to Rail and Road leading to overall economic benefit of the country.
