

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2343
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL WATERWAYS

2343. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

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

- (a) the details of expenditures incurred and achievements made in regard to the development of National Waterways during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the cargo transportation potential under National Waterway-1 (Ganga) in Bihar is not fully utilized; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) The details of expenditure incurred and achievements made in regard to the development of National Waterways (NWs) in various States during the last five years, are at **Annexure-1** and **Annexure-2**.

(b) & (c) The Cargo movement on NW-1 including Bihar has increased by 220% (approximately) from 5.05 Million MT in 2014-15 to 16.38 Million MT in 2024-25.

Annexure-1

The details of expenditure incurred in regard to the development of National Waterways (NWs) in States during the last five years:

Detail of expenditure during last 5 year							
Sl.No.	National Waterways	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	
1	Grant to Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) - Grant for creation of Capital assets						
a	NW-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system) in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal	58.54	87.83	66.25	163.38	97.71	
b	NW-3 (West Coast Canal, Kerala) including Changonasser NW-8(Alapuzha-&NW-9(Kottayam-valicom) in Kerala	21.52	10.83	3.82	4.78	15.26	
c	Phase-1, NW-4(Krishna River, Andhra Pradesh)	3.62	3.08	0.18	0.67	1.22	
d	Phase-1, NW-5 (Odisha)	2.13	2.58	0.76	26.53	2.24	
e	Other Plan schemes including new NWs namely NW-27 (Cumberjao canal), NW-68 (Mondavi River), NW-111 (Zuari River) in Goa, NW-86 (Rupnarayan River), NW-97 (Sunderbans) in West Bengal	13.21	13.47	4.36	11.25	33.47	
2	Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) (NW-1)	214.05	229.60	339.22	501.26	501.48	
3	NW-2 &NW-16- Grants for creation of Capital Assets in Assam	38.79	78.04	100.18	261.77	432.30	
	Total	351.86	425.43	514.77	969.64	1083.68	

Annexure-2.

The details of achievements made in regard to the development of National Waterways in various States during the last five years:

- (i) With development of infrastructure by IWAI, an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), cargo transportation on national waterways has increased from 18.1 million ton (MMT) in 2013-14 to 145.84 MMT in 2024-25.
- (ii) Construction of 3 Multi-Modal Terminals (MMTs) at Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh), Sahibganj (Jharkhand) &Haldia (West Bengal) and 1 Inter-Modal Terminal (IMT) atKalughat (Bihar), 60 community jetties in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, on NW-1 (Ganga River).
- (iii) A new Navigation Lock at Farakka (West Bengal) and 2 Quick Pontoon Opening Mechanisms (QPOMs) one each in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been constructed on NW-1 to facilitate smooth & faster movement of vessels. Further, Modernization of existing navigational lock in Farakka has been undertaken and is expected for completion by July 2026.
- (iv) Completed Terminals at Jogighopa(Assam) and Bogibeel(Assam). Four dedicated Jetties for cruise vessels have been provided at Jogighopa, Pandu, BiswanathGhat and Neamati in Assam. In addition to this, Jetties for cruise and passengers have been constructed at Sadiya, Lyka and OriumGhat in Assam.
- (v) Maritime Skill Development Centre (MSDC) has been established for inland vessels crew training in North Eastern Region at Guwahati, Assam.
- (vi) Two existing terminals at Badarpur and Karimganj on NW-16 (Barak River) in Assam have been upgraded.
- (vii) Sonamura terminal on Gumat River in Tripura for supporting the cross-border transit cargo movement between India and Bangladesh has been developed.
- (viii) Four floating concrete jetties were provided to Government of Goa and installed in Mandovi River (NW-68) at Goa.
- (ix) Four Tourist Jetties on NW-4 (Krishna River) in Andhra Pradesh have been commissioned and 12 floating jetties on NW-110 (Yamuna River) in Mathura-Vrindavan stretch in Uttar Pradesh, 2 Jetties on NW-73 (Narmada River) & 2 Jetties on NW-37 (Gandak River) in Bihar are under execution.
- (x) Ten Ro-Ro/ Ro Pax vessels handed over during the year 2023-24 to States for safe passenger movement as under:-

- Two Ro Pax vessels namely M.V. Sam Manekshaw and M.V. Swami Vivekananda are deployed under MoU with Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- Four Ro Pax namely M.V. Sachin Dev Burman, M.V. Rani Gaidinliu, M.V. JFR Jacob and M.V. Bob Khatingare deployed under MoU with Government of Assam.
- Two Ro-Ro Vessels namely M.V. AdiShankara and M.V. C.V. Raman are deployed under MoU with KSINC (Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation).
- Two Ro Pax vessels namely M.V. Rajendra Prasad and M.V. Swami Paramhansare deployed under MoU with Government of Bihar.

(xi) To encourage indigenous electric ferries and advance eco-friendly inland water transport, IWAI is taking the following initiatives:

(a) Hybrid Electric Catamaran Vessels: IWAI is procuring eight such vessels from Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The first two have been deployed at Varanasi (Ganga River–NW-1) and Ayodhya (Ghaghra River–NW-40). Further, third one has already arrived at Gaighat Terminal in Patna (NW-1) and fourth one is deployed in Kolkata (NW-1) in January 2026. Remaining four such vessels are scheduled for completion and deployment during 2026.

(b) Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran: As part of an R&D initiative with Cochin Shipyard Limited, MoPSW launched India's first hydrogen-powered catamaran, now operational in Varanasi. This zero-emission vessel significantly reduces carbon footprint and sets a benchmark for sustainable innovation in inland waterways.

(xii) 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 in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam and Kerala.
