

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4782
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2026

INLAND NAVIGATION IN KERALA

4782. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Kerala has not been included in the twenty newly announced National Waterways, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether budgetary allocations have been earmarked for the development of the West Coast Canal system, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether inland navigation potential in Kerala has been formally assessed, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to integrate Kerala into the national inland water transport network?

ANSWER

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

(a) During the Budget speech, Hon'ble Finance Minister of India announced for operationalisation of 20 new National Waterways (NWs) over the next 5 years. Out of the identified 20 NWs for operationazation, including NW-5, 2 NWs namelyAVM Canal (NW-13) andVaikkom-Kottayam Canal (NW-59) are in Kerala.

(b) Rs.68.95 Crore has allocated in the Union Budget 2026-27 for the development of NWs including West Coast Canal consisting of NW-3, NW-8, NW-9, NW-13 and NW-59 in Kerala.

(c) Inland navigation potential in Kerala has been assessed in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) for

development of NW-3. Feasibility Report and DPR have been prepared for the development of NW-8, NW-9 and NW-59 in Kerala.

(d) In addition to the existing NWs in Kerala namely NW-3 (West Coast Canal), NW-8 (Alappuzha- Changanasserry canal), NW-9 (Alappuzha- Kottayam- Athirampuzha canal) and NW-59 (Vaikom- Kottayam canal), the extension of NW-3 upto Kozhikkode has also been declared as NW to integrate Kerala into the national inland water transport network.
