

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1133  
ANSWERED ON 22/07/2022

**BUCKINGHAM CANAL**

1133. SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that no development works have been taken up on Buckingham Canal since its declaration as a National Waterway;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of plans to make the National Waterway Buckingham Canal navigable by large mechanically propelled inland vessels for transportation of cargo?

**ANSWER**

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

(a to c) Buckingham Canal consisting of 316 km long North Buckingham Canal (Pedaganjam to Central Station Chennai) and 110 km long South Buckingham Canal (Central Station Chennai to Marakanam) is part of National Waterway – 4 which was declared in 2008. Subsequent to declaration, Detailed Project Report (DPR) was completed in March, 2010 and the details are at **Annex-I**. As per the findings of Detailed Project Report (DPR), Buckingham Canal has many low level bridges, defunct structures and subjected to encroachments and hence not found suitable for development.

In view of above and with the development of road and rail network parallel to the Buckingham Canal which is in the vicinity of East Coast, there is no plan to develop Buckingham Canal at present.

**Status of Buckingham Canal as a part of National Waterway-4**

Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of navigation in Kakinada – Puducherry canal along with river Godavari and Krishna of entire NW-4 was completed in March 2010. As per DPR, Buckingham canal consists of two stretches:-

1. North Buckingham canal (Pedaganjam to Central Station of Chennai) - 316 km; and
2. South Buckingham canal (Central Station of Chennai to Marakanam) -110 km

Both the above stretches of Buckingham canal are tidal canals and remain dry during non-monsoon periods. 50 km stretch connecting North and South Buckingham canals in Chennai city is totally in abandoned condition and Govt. of Tamil Nadu has allowed Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS), to construct Elevated Railway Stations right over the canal and columns of MRTS flyover bridges are within the canal bed itself and in certain places, the pedestal foundation of column is exposed above the canal bed. Therefore, there is no navigation possible in the Chennai stretch and DPR recommends not taking up this stretch for IWT development. The remaining stretches of Buckingham canal has a total of 52 nos. bridges out of which 28 nos. of bridges are to be modified or reconstructed to provide desired horizontal and vertical clearances to allow passage of design size of inland vessel. The survey of the canal indicated that the canal is silted at many places and embankments on either bank of some portions also leveled. Further, there are defunct lock structures and many portions of the canal are subjected to encroachments.

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