

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3961
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
INLAND WATERWAYS
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

iksr ifjogu ea=kh

- (a) whether the Government propose to open more inland waterways in the country;
- (b) if so, the names of waterways proposed to be opened in near future;
- (c) the target date by which these waterways are likely to be opened;
- (d) whether private sector participation is also to be involved in this venture; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c) : Declaration of a waterway as a National Waterway, inter-alia, depends upon techno-economic feasibility of waterway and availability of resources. No target date has yet been fixed to open more inland waterways as National Waterways. However, the National Transport Policy Committee has identified following 10 waterways as having potential for development and declaration as National Waterway :-

1. Ganga-Bhagirathi -Hooghly river system
2. The Brahmaputra
3. The West Coast Canal
4. The Sunderbans
5. The Godavari
6. The Krishna
7. The Mahanadi
8. The Narmada
9. The Mandovi, Zuari rivers and Cumberjua Canal in Goa
10. The Tapi

In addition, techno-economic feasibility studies have also been conducted on Barak River, East Coast Canal, DVC Canal and Kakinada-Mercanum Canal which indicated that these waterways have the potential for development of inland water transport.

Three waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 km), the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km) and West Coast Canal including Champakara and Udyogamandal canals (205 km) have already been declared as National Waterways and are being developed by Inland Waterways Authority of India by providing infrastructural facilities; such as navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids subject to availability of resources.

(d) & (e) Action has also been initiated to evolve policy framework and strategy for development of inland water transport. Inter-alia the policy framework is aimed at facilitating private participation in areas such as ownership and operation of inland water transport fleet, construction and operation of river terminals, mechanised cargo handling system, joint venture participation etc.