

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:728
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
FREIGHT CARRIAGE THROUGH WATERWAYS
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;ZORA SINGH MANN

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have explored potential of freight carriage through waterways in the country;
- (b) if so, the percentage of total freight carriage which can be conducted in the country through waterways;
- (c) whether the Government have also identified waterways for freight carriage;
- (d) if so, the names of these waterways; and
- (e) the action plan formulated by the Government to develop these waterways

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per the `Waterways : Technology Vision 2020` published by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Department of Science and Technology, the maximum of 3.5 % of the total traffic can be conducted through waterways in the Country.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The National Transport Policy Committee have identified following ten waterways 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

Besides these 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

(e) The nodal responsibility to develop National Waterways is vested in Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA). 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 in the process of development by providing infrastructural facilities; such as navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids subject to availability of resources.

The declaration of other waterways as National Waterways and thereby undertaking development thereof by IWA will depend on availability of resources.