

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1102
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2001
COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATERWAYS
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether to overcome the pressure on the road transport the Government propose to encourage sea or river transport;
- (b) if so, whether to develop coastal shipping in the country the Government have appointed a high level Committee for the assessment of quantity of coal, steel and fertilizers to be carried by the coastal shipping;
- (c) if so, the ways and means suggested by the high level Committee in this regard;
- (d) the total national waterways at present in the country; and
- (e) the future strategy chalked out by the Government for the development of more such waterways and coastal shipping in the country?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Working Groups to assess quantity of coal, steel and fertilizers to be carried by the Coastal Shipping were set up in the Ministries of Coal, Steel and Fertilizers in 1998. Whereas the Working Group in the Ministry of Coal has mainly recommended that adequate provision for development of Inland Waterways and Coastal Shipping for the movement of coal, be made on the other hand Working Group in the Ministry of Steel recommended that in view of the proposed Study by NCAER it is premature to make any specific recommendations on the feasibility of inland water transportation and coastal shipping of iron and steel products. Working Group of the Deptt. of Fertilisers had recommended exploring possibility of identifying routes of coastal shipping and inland waterway traffic.

(d) & (e) Out of ten Major Waterways identified for declaration as National Waterways following three Waterways have so far been declared as National Waterway No. 1, 2 and 3:-

(i) National Waterways No.1 - The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia (1620 kms);

(ii) National Waterways No.2 : The Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms); and

(iv) National Waterway No.3 : The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 kms).

The said National Waterways are being developed by IWAI by way of providing infrastructural facilities such as navigational aids, channels, terminals etc. subject to availability of funds.

Techno-economic feasibility studies have been conducted on the remaining seven waterways, as also on Barak river, East Coast Canal, D.V.C Canal and Kakinada-Mercanum Canal and these waterways have been found to have the potential for development of inland water transport. However, the declaration of these waterways as National Waterways and subsequent development thereof will depend upon availability of funds.

Government have recently decided to conduct a study of the coastal routes, availability of cargo including return cargo and development of infrastructure at ports, also covering integration of coastal shipping and inland water transport, wherever feasible. A Steering Group has also been set up to monitor the above referred Study.