

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:751
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
INLAND WATERWAYS
GORDHANBHAI JAVIA,P. RAJENDRAN

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (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 the near future;
- (c) whether the Vembandu lake in Kerala is also included in these waterways;
- (d) the target date by which these waterways are likely to be opened;
- (e) whether private sector participation is also to be involved in this venture; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Barak river, DVC Canal, Sunderbans Waterways, Kakinada-Mercaunum Canal with Godavari and Krishna rivers, East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river system have been found viable for development of inland water transport infrastructure.
- (c) Vembandu lake is already a part of national waterway No.3. i.e. Kollam to Kottapuram.
- (d) Government's long term objective would be to develop all potential waterways for navigation and shipping subject to availability of funds.
- (e)& (f) The Government has formulated a policy package which envisages Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) to enter into joint ventures with private sector, equity participation upto a maximum of 40% by Govt. in BOT projects, tax exemption as available in infrastructure sector, enhancement in depreciation rate for inland vessels at par with the rate applicable to ocean going vessels, Vessels Building Subsidy of 30% for ship owners for inland vessels built in Indian Shipyards and for levying minimum customs duty on imported equipment and machinery for the development of inland waterways