

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:252
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
DECLARATION OF NEW WATERWAYS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to declare new waterways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total share of inland water transport at present and the target fixed by the Government to increase it during the next 10 years;
- (c) the extent to which these new waterways are likely to facilitate the water transport in the country;
- (d) whether private companies will be allowed to participate in the development work of waterways; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the assistance likely to be provided by the Union Government to these companies?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 252 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.8.2005 RAISED BY SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI SI AND SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO REGARDING - DECLARATION OF NEW WATERWAYS.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of new waterways proposed for declaration are as under:-
(i) Kakinada-Pondicherry Canals along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km).
(ii) East Coast Canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi Delta (623 km)
(iii) River Barak (140 km)

(c) The modal share of inland water transport (IWT) at present is less than 1%. The Government has targeted to increase the modal share of IWT to 2% over next 8-10 years.

(d) The declaration of three new national waterways will increase the coverage of national waterways by 1858 kms. Accordingly, IWT activity will increase.

(e)&(f) Yes, Sir. Private companies will be allowed to participate in the development work as contractors. Their selection will be done through tender route. Private investment for IWT infrastructure development is not likely to materialize, as immediate profits are unlikely. Keeping this in view, state funding is envisaged for infrastructure development.