

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4891  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010  
LAKHIPUR- BHANGA STRETCH AS NATIONAL WATERWAY  
Suklabaidya Shri Lalit Mohan

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has declared Lakhipur-Bhanga stretch of river Barak in the State of Assam as a National Waterway (NW);  
and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken by the Government for dredging of the such river for navigation of ships on this NW?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The National Waterway (Lakhipur-Bhanga stretch of the Barak River) Bill, 2007 for declaration of Lakhipur-Bhanga stretch of Barak river as a National Waterway was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 29th August, 2007. The said Bill alongwith amendments as recommended by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture was passed by the Lok Sabha on 25th February, 2009 and was sent to Rajya Sabha for consideration and passing. The same could not be passed since the House was adjourned. On the dissolution of 14th Lok Sabha, the said Bill lapsed. Since funds are yet to be allocated for development of newly declared waterways i.e. NW-4 & 5, there is no proposal being considered for declaring Lakhipur-Bhanga stretch of river Barak as National Waterway at present.