

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:32
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to start inland water transport over river Ganga through Haldia to Patna or Varanasi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Allahabad-Haldia stretch (1620 km) of river Ganga was declared in 1986 as first National Waterway of the country and Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), a statutory body under Ministry of Shipping, is developing shipping and navigation related inland water transport infrastructure on it with a view to increase inland water transport. In this process IWAI is providing required navigation depth for about 330 days in a year in different stretches of this waterway. Fixed and floating terminals are also been developed at several places and the waterway has been provided with night navigation facility in Tribeni- Varanasi stretch (1187 km), while day navigation aids are maintained in entire length of the waterway.

Transportation of various goods already take place between Haldia/Kolkata and Patna, Varanasi-Allahabad etc and vice-versa from time to time. Besides, a few cargo vessels of IWAI also ply regularly carrying cargo such as stone chips etc. as demonstrative cargo voyages. From September, 2009 to March, 2010, and inland cruise vessel had made regular voyage between Kolkata and Ghazipur carrying foreign tourists.