

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:208  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010  
WATER AND DEPTH OF NATIONAL WATERWAYS  
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) the names of National Waterways and Inland Waterways, length-wise at present in the country, separately, State-wise;
- (b) whether the navigation of ships on such waterways has not been possible throughout the year due to insufficient water and depth;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, waterways-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem?

**Answer**

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

(a): There are 14500 km of navigable and potentially navigable inland waterways in the country of which the following five inland waterways have been declared as National Waterways:

(i) National Waterway-1: Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga–Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (Total length-1620 km) in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

(ii) National Waterway-2: Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (Total length-891 km) in the State of Assam.

(iii) National Waterway-3: Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (Total length-205 km) in the State of Kerala.

(iv) National Waterway-4: Kakinada-Puducherry stretch of canals comprising of Kakinada canal, Eluru canal, Commamur canal, Buckingham canal and the Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam- Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijaywada stretch of river Krishna (Total length-1027 km) in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

(v) National Waterway-5: Talcher-Dhamra stretch of Brahmani-Kharsua-Dhamra rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers between Mangalgadi and Paradip (Total length- 588 km) in the States of West Bengal and Orissa.

(b) to (d): Out of above mentioned five National Waterways, developmental works are being carried out by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on NW-1, 2 and 3 only. In NW-1 & 2, IWAI undertakes river conservancy works to provide navigational channel of 3 meter/2.0 meter/1.5 meter depth in different stretches during the low water period. In NW-3, which is a tidal canal, Inland Waterways Authority of India is carrying out capital dredging to provide a navigational channel with 2 meter depth and 32 meter width. Navigation by cargo and other inland vessels take place in these three National Waterways all around the year. For National Waterways-4 and 5, declared as National Waterways in November, 2008 proposals for development of these waterways have been initiated.