

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3465
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
STUDY FOR NEW INLAND WATERWAYS
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study for development of new inland waterway in Narmada river from Hoshangabad to Bharuch;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof alongwith the name of company assigned for the purpose; and
- (c) the funds allocated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. In July 2003 Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) had awarded preparation of a Techno Economic Feasibility Study for development of navigation on river Narmada between Hoshangabad and Sea (Bharuch) to M/s. WAPCOS Ltd at a cost of Rs 37.80 lakhs. This study was to be undertaken in two phases. The scope of work of Phase1 included review of study on Narmada river undertaken by M/s. Royal Haskoning B.V, Netherlands in 1980s, hydrographic survey, suggesting most economical and reliable method of crossing of dams by inland cargo vessels etc. The Phase-2 of the study relates to detailing of terminals, navigation aids, access to terminals, environmental impact assessment, economic and financial internal rates of return, costing and implementation schedule.

The most important issue to be addressed was passage of cargo vessel across four major dams on Narmada river namely Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, and Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh and Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat which do not have ship cross/transfer facility therein.

In the terms and reference of the agreement between IWAI and WAPCOS Ltd for this study with respect to the Phase1 report, it was mentioned that "it is essential that the State Governments concerned with the different stretches of the river in their jurisdiction should concur with the technical proposals put forth by the consultant for navigability before the Phase 2 studies are taken up".

Report of the Phase-1 was submitted by WAPCOS Ltd in Oct. 2005. In this report the consultant had not recommended through navigation between Hoshangabad and Sea. They had proposed cargo transfer by way of conveyor belts upstream and downstream of dams at Indira Sagar and Sardar Sarovar and navigational locks at other two dams. This report was forwarded to Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA), Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL), Narmada Control Authority (NCA) and Irrigation Department of Government of Maharashtra.

Comments were received from NVDA, SSNNL and NCA. NVDA of Government of Madhya Pradesh had interalia observed that it was necessary to provide through navigation from Hoshangabad to Sea and the agreement of States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in respect of sharing of water should be kept in view while planning the works of navigation below Sardar Sarovar Dam. SSNNL interalia had observed that the issue of navigation of Narmada river shall be formally put up to the NCA for deliberation and consideration. The comments received from these authorities were forwarded to WAPCOS Ltd for comments and modification of the report if required. So far payment of Rs 22.68 lakhs only has been made by IWAI to WAPCOS Ltd for this study.