

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:371
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010
INLAND WATER TRANSPORTATION
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is utilizing fully the potential of inland water transport infrastructure over river Ganga through Patna-Haldia and Patna-Varanasi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the revenue generated through this inland water transportation during the last two years;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to improve the inland water transport infrastructure;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has announced any new national waterways; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 371 TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2010 BY DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH AND SHRI JAGADANAND SINGH REGARDING INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. Allahabad- Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (1620 km) was declared in 1986 as first National Waterway of the country. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is providing infrastructural facilities like navigation channel, aids to navigation & terminal facilities on this waterway. These facilities are utilized by vessels operated by private & Public Sector organizations. Transportation of various goods including Over Dimensional Cargo, already takes place between Haldia/Kolkata and Patna, Varanasi, Allahabad and vice-versa from time to time. Inland Waterways Authority of India collects charges such as pilotage charges, berthing charges, storage charges, freight for transporting cargo under demonstrative cargo services, and user charges for movement of Over Dimensional cargo.

A dialogue has been initiated between Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Shipping and NTPC for transportation of 3 million tonnes of imported Coal for NTPC Power Plants at Farakka/Kahalgaoon for a period of 7 years from transhipper at Sagar Islands/Sand Heads (Kolkata/Haldia Port) through IWT mode in NW-1 for which IWAI shall ensure the required infrastructure in NW-1. The revenue generated by IWAI on NW-1 during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No	Particulars	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Freight for transportation of cargo through demonstrative voyages by IWAI vessel.	28.87	55.98
2.	User charges for transportation of Over Dimensional cargo by operators.	Nil	16.27
3.	Charges collected by IWAI under Indo-Bangladesh Protocol.	7.33	12.08
4.	Pilotage charges	0.27	0.27
5.	Berthing/ Storage charges at terminals.	3.70	9.32
	Total	40.17	93.92

(d) to (e): IWAI is developing the basic infrastructure facilities on three National Waterways namely Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (NW-1), Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (NW-2) and Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of

West Coast Canal and Champakkara and Udyogmandal Canals (NW-3) such as navigational channel, aids for navigation and terminals. Revenue is likely to increase as and when waterway is utilized by more inland vessels.

(f) to (g): Yes, Madam. Inland Waterways Authority of India has the responsibility only to develop the waterways which are declared as national waterways by an Act of Parliament. Development of waterways other than National Waterways rest with the respective State Governments. In 2008 Government has declared following two waterways as National Waterways (NWs):

(i) National Waterway-4: Kakinada-Pudcherry stretch of canals and Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna (1095 km).

(ii) National Waterway-5: Talcher-Dhamra stretch of Brahmani river, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers (623km).

The Planning Commission recently suggested development of National Waterways 4 & 5 under "Public Private Partnership" Project basis with viability gap funding. A Project Management Unit is being setup to take forward the process in a phased manner.