

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4280
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to expand inland water transport in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether most navigable waterways suffer from hazards leading to their under-utilisation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps being taken in this regard; and
- (e) the initiatives being taken by the Government to reduce connectivity constraints faced by the ports in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam, Inland waterways Authority of India (IWA) is taking steps for development/maintenance of Inland Water Transport (IWT) infrastructure namely navigational channel, navigation aids and terminals in National Waterways 1, 2 & 3. Steps have been initiated to examine the feasibility of developing commercially viable stretches of National Waterways 4 & 5 under the public private partnership. For development of IWT in North Eastern states, there is a Central Plan Scheme under which 100% funding is provided.

(c) & (d): Given the alluvial nature of Ganga and Brahmaputra (National Waterways 1 & 2) which leads to frequent shoal formation. Large differences in discharge rate and velocity of water during flood and lean seasons, pose navigational challenges. Regular dredging and bandalling at critical locations provides requisite Least Available Depth (LAD) for safe navigation on these National Waterways.

(e): The Committee of Secretaries set up in 2006 to look into Rail/Road Connectivity to Major Ports recommended that each Major Port should have four lane road connectivity. Based on the report, National Highways Authority of India has been taking up road projects through Special Purpose Vehicles/companies of NHAI.