GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3970
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
INLAND WATERWAYS
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total inland waterways network declared as National Waterways in the country;

(b) whether the infrastructure facilities at these waterways are adequate enough to make them a viable option;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure available on these waterways?

Answer

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

(a): The following five waterways have so far been declared as National Waterways (NWs):

1. Ganga −Bhagirathi- Hooghly river system (Allahabad-Haldia-1620 km) -NW-1, declared in 1986.

2. River Brahmaputra (Dhubri − Sadiya -891 Km) −NW-2 declared in 1988.

3. West Coast Canal (Kottapuram − Kollam) along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals− (205 km) − NW-3 declared in 1993.

4. Kakinada-Puducherry canals along with Godavari and Krishna rivers (1078 km)-NW-4 declared in 2008.

5. East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta rivers (588 km) − NW-5 declared in 2008.

(b) to (d): Out of the above mentioned five NWs, basic inland water transport related infrastructure has been provided on NW-1, 2 and 3 . This includes navigational channel with least available depth in different stretches depending upon their hydro-morphological characteristics, a number of fixed and floating terminals and navigational aids (including aids for 24 hours navigation in most of their lengths). These infrastructural facilities are being maintained/further developed on year to year basis depending upon available resources. But due to non availability of funds during the 11th Plan no development could be started on NW-4 and NW-5 and Planning Commission has now advised to develop commercially viable stretches of NW-4 and 5 under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF).