

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:821  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012  
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT  
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**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) the status of the National Waterways in the country including Kerala;
- (b) the measures being taken by the Government to improve the inland water transport throughout the country including Waterways connecting north and south of Kerala;
- (c) the reasons for continued delay in inter-connecting the waterways in Kerala for full utilization of the project;
- (d) the proposed target of completion of inter-connectivity and accompanied infrastructure development on the said waterways; and
- (e) whether the proposal will be implemented through Public Private Partnership (PPP) and if so, the action taken to invite private players and their response thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): As of now there are five National Waterways (NWs) in the country. These are as follows:

- (i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (Allahabad-Haldia-1620 km) NW-1, declared in 1986.
- (ii) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri-Sadiya – 891 km) – NW-2 declared in 1988.
- (iii) West Coast Canal (Kottapuram-Kollam) along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals – (205 km) – NW-3 declared in 1993.
- (iv) Kakinada-Puducherry canals along with Godavari and Krishna rivers (1078 km) – NW-4 declared in 2008.
- (v) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers (588 km) – NW-5 declared in 2008.

Of these, NW-3 connects various places of Kerala namely Kottapuram, Aluva, Ambalamugal, Kochi, Vaikom, Chertala, Alappuzha, Trikkunnappuzha, Kayamkulam and Kollam through the inland waterways mode.

Out of the five NWs, the NW-1, 2 & 3 are being developed for shipping and navigation by providing the required Inland Water Transport infrastructure. The developmental works include providing a navigational channel with targeted depth and width for most part of the year, aids for day and night navigation, fixed/floating terminals at selected locations for berthing and loading/unloading of vessels and intermodal connectivity at a few selected locations.

On the advice of Planning Commission, efforts to develop commercially viable stretches of NW-4 & NW-5 under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) have initiated.

(c): Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is responsible for developing NW-3. The other waterways interconnected with it have to be developed by the State Government.

(d)&(e): IWAI is undertaking the development of NW-3 through budgetary resources of the Central Government and various projects in this regard are under implementation. No PPP project is presently envisaged for development of NW-3. State Government of Kerala is to develop the other waterways to interconnect with NW-3.