

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2513

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

NATIONAL 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 along with the traffic handled by each of these waterways during the last three years;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to assess the potential of inland shipping across the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the infrastructure facilities at these waterways are adequate enough to make them a viable option of transportation;
- (e) if so the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure facilities across all the waterways and achieve maximum utilisation of these waterways?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): The following waterways, of about 4382 km in total length, have been declared as National Waterways (NWs):

(i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (Allahabad-Haldia-1620 km) in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal was declared as NW-1, in the year 1986.

(ii) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri-Sadiya – 891 km) in the State of Assam was declared as NW-2 in the year 1988.

(iii) West Coast Canal (Kottapuram-Kollam) along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals – (205 km) in the State of Kerala was declared as NW-3 in the year 1993.

(iv) Kakinada- Puducherry canals along with Godavari and Krishna rivers (1078 km) – in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union territory of Puducherry was declared as NW-4 in the year 2008.

(v) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta rivers (588 km) in the States of West Bengal and Odisha was declared as NW-5 in the year 2008.

The cargo moved in the first three National Waterways during the last three years is indicated below:

(in lakh tonnes)

Waterway 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12

NW-1 18.11 18.71 33.10

NW-2 21.15 21.64 24.06

NW-3 6.67 8.86 13.44

NW-4 #

NW-5 #

# Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) is yet to take up developmental works on these waterways. Therefore, cargo movement details are not available for these waterways.

(b) & (c): In 1980 the National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) has undertaken a detailed study to assess the potential of various waterways in the country. IWA has also from time to time conducted various techno-economic feasibility studies to assess the navigability of various waterways in the country.

(d) to (f): National Waterways are being developed by IWAJ 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.