

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:629

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

UTILISATION OF INLAND WATERWAYS

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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is utilising 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 in the country;
- (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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b): Haldia- Allahabad stretch (1620 km) of Ganga- Bhagirathi- Hooghly river system has been declared as National Waterway (NW- 1) and Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) is developing this waterway with navigational channel of 2.5 m Least Available Depth (LAD) in Haldia- Barh stretch (956 km), 2 m in Barh- Ghazipur stretch (294 km) and 1.5 m in Ghazipur- Varanasi stretch (133 km) with round the clock navigation aids in Haldia- Ballia stretch (1140 km) and Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) connectivity. Besides, permanent terminals are available at Pakur, Farakka and Patna and floating jetties at several other locations.

This waterway is being utilized for transportation of goods like cement, fly ash, iron ore, coal, stone chips, pulses, POL, over dimensional cargo etc. using mechanized barges. Besides, cruise vessels also operate between Kolkata and Patna.

(c): The revenue generated through National Waterway-1 during the last two years by way of pilotage charges, berthing charges, terminal charges, protocol charges and ODC charges is indicated below:

2010-11 - Rs 2.19 cr

2011-12 - Rs 3.70 cr

(d) & (e): The NW-1, 2 & 3 are being developed by IWA for shipping and navigation by providing the required Inland Water Transport (IWT) 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. IWA has planned to improve the LAD in NW-1 & 2 in the coming years. New DGPS stations are being set up at Varanasi in NW-1 and Silghat & Dhubri in NW- 2. River Information Services (RIS) system is being setup in Haldia- Farakka stretch of NW- 1. Besides, permanent terminals are planned to be setup at GR jetty (Kolkata), Varanasi and Allahabad in NW- 1 and Dhubri and Hatsingamari in NW- 2.

As advised by Planning Commission, efforts to develop more commercially viable stretches of National Waterway No. 4 & 5 under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) have already been initiated.

(f) & (g): Government has declared two new national waterways in 2008. These are (i) Kakinada-Puducherry canals along with Godavari and Krishna rivers (1078 km) in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union territory of Puducherry and (ii) East Coast Canal along with Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta rivers (588 km) in the states of West Bengal and Odisha. Besides, Government has also finalized a proposal to declare Lakhimpur-Bhanga stretch of Barak river as National Waterway No. 6.