

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:955
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012
RIVER BASED WATERWAYS
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to develop river based waterways and corridors in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the project is proposed to be implemented under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) As per the report of the National Transport Policy Committee (1980) there are about 14500 km of waterways which are navigable by country boats, out of which about 5685 km of waterways are navigable by mechanized vessels. Development and regulation of those Waterways declared as National Waterways come under the purview of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA). The responsibility of development of other waterways rests with the respective State Governments.

The following waterways have so far 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 as NW-1, declared in 1986.
- (ii) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri- Sadiya – 891 km) in the State of Assam as NW-2 declared in 1988.
- (iii) West Coast Canal (Kottapuram-Kollam) along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals – (205 km) in the State of Kerala as NW-3, declared in 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 as NW-4 declared in 2008.
- (v) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta rivers (588 km) in the States of West Bengal and Odisha as NW-5, declared in 2008.

IWA is developing the first three National Waterways for shipping and navigation from Plan funds by 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

(c) & (d) Commercially viable stretches of NW- 4 and 5 are proposed to be developed under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF). Subsequently, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under their India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF) scheme and PPP Pilot Project initiative through Asian Development Bank (ADB) have appointed a transaction adviser (consultant) for reviewing the DPR (already prepared by IWA) and formulating PPP projects including their bid processing till selection of the concessionaire.