

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2641  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012  
NATIONAL WATERWAYS  
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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 to improve the inland water transport in the country including connecting north and south of Kerala;
- (c) the reasons for the continued delay in inter connecting the rivers for full utilization of the project particularly between the north and south Kerala;
- (d) the proposed target set for the completion of interconnectivity and accompanied infrastructure development in the country in detail; 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 in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b): There are five National Waterways (NWs) in the country. These NWs are as follows:

- (i) Ganga- Bhagirathi- Hooghly river system (Allahabad- Haldia- 1620 km) NW-1, declared in 1986.
- (ii) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri- Sadia- 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.

NW- 3 is in Kerala and connects various places namely Kottapuram, Aluva, Ambalamugal, Kochi, Vaikom, Chertala, Allapuzha, Trikkunnapuzha, Kayamkulam and Kollam through the inland waterways mode.

Out of the five NWs, the NW- 1,2 & 3 are being developed by MWA for shipping and navigation by providing the required Inland Water Transport infrastructure. The development 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.

The efforts to develop more commercially viable stretches of NW- 4 & 5 are being undertaken under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF). Accordingly, a transaction Adviser has been appointed by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in March 2012, to carry a study and update the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for preparing and processing PPP projects. Under Phase-I, the stretches identified for development include Bhadrachalam- Rajmundry stretch of Godavari River (157 km), Kakinada Canal (50 km), Eluru Canal (88 km) on NW- 4 and the river portion of Talcher – Dhamra, Mangalgadi – Paradeep & Charbatia – Dhamra stretches (371 km) on NW-5.

(c): In Kerala, the Central Government is responsible for development of NW-3 for shipping and navigation, which consists of backwaters system between Kottapuram and Kollam. This project does not involve interconnectivity of any rivers in Kerala.

(d): There is no proposal for interconnectivity of National Waterways for development of infrastructure for shipping and navigation thereon.

(e): Does not arise.