

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3799

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INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) meets the shipping responsibility in rivers, lakes, canals, creeks and backwaters in the country including Odisha;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted at the national level with regard to the potential of inland water transportation including Kollam-Kottapuram National Waterway (NW-3);
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the numbers and details of waterways declared as national waterways in the country; and
- (e) the measures being initiated by the Government to ensure maximum utilisation of the declared waterways keeping in view the fact that ship transportation is the cheapest mode of transportation?

Answer

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

(a): Development and regulation of waterways declared as National Waterways (NWs) come under the purview of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The responsibility of development of other waterways rests with the respective State Governments. Accordingly IWAI is developing National Waterways 1, 2 and 3 for shipping and navigation. Development of NW-4 and NW-5 is being explored through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) by the Government for which the process is underway. A part of NW- 5 is in the State of Odisha.

(b) & (c): National Transport Policy Committee (1980) had, inter-alia, assessed the potential of inland waterways in the country. As per its report 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. It also identified ten waterways as having potential to be declared as National Waterways. List of the same is attached as Annexure. This includes Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal which was declared as NW-3 in 1993 and IWAI is developing it for shipping and navigation.

(d): The following 5 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.

(e): IWAI is developing the first three National Waterways under central funding for shipping and navigation by providing a navigational channel with targeted depth. IWAI is also providing, aids for day and night navigation, and fixed/floating terminals at selected locations for berthing and loading/unloading of vessels and intermodal connectivity at a few selected locations on these National Waterways. Commercially viable stretches of National Waterways-4 & 5 are proposed to be developed under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF). Accordingly, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF) scheme and PPP Pilot Project initiative through Asian Development Bank (ADB) have appointed a consultant for reviewing the DPR and formulating PPP projects. The consultant will also be associated with processing of the bid and selection of the concessionaire for developing the commercially viable stretches of NW-4 & 5 under PPP with VGF.

ANNEXURE

List of waterways

- (i) The Ganga-Bhagirathi- Hooghly
- (ii) The Brahmaputra
- (iii) The Sunderbans
- (iv) The Narmada
- (v) The Mahanadi
- (vi) The Tapi
- (vii) The Godavari
- (viii) The Krishna
- (ix) The Mandovi, Zuari rivers and the Cumberjua canal in Goa
- (x) The West Coast Canal system in Kerala