

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4473

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013

INLAND WATERWAYS

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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) is responsible for shipping in rivers, lakes, canals, creeks and backwaters in the country;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted at the national level with regard to the potential of inland water transportation including river Ganga for heavy cargo transportation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the numbers and details of waterways declared as national waterways in the country including revenue generated through inland waterways transport system; and
- (e) the measures being initiated by the Government to ensure maximum utilization of the declared waterways keeping in view the fact that ship transportation is the cheapest mode of transportation?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): No Madam. Development and regulation of only those waterways, which are declared as National Waterways (NWs) comes under the purview of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA). The responsibility of development of other waterways rests with the respective State Governments.

(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.

(d): The following 5 waterways 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 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.

Revenue generated on National Waterway 1, 2 and 3 on account of various charges such as pilot charges, berthing charges, terminal charges, protocol charges and Over Dimensional Cargo (ODC) charges for the last 5 years is about Rs. 7.56 crore.

(e): IWA has already taken up the development of various National Waterways with the objective of providing navigable channels round the year with aids for day and night navigation. Besides, efforts have been made to identify specific cargoes for transportation on the national waterways.