

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1742
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
DEVELOPMENT OF WATERWAYS
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of cargo transported through inland waterways where origination and destination both lie within India during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any proposal for stretching the National Waterways and also increase the use of inland waterways and coastal shipping for greater cargo shipment;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has given a fillip to sea-borne domestic trade by allowing vessels that could hitherto ply only in rivers and other inland water to operate in water along the coast; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) The quantity of cargo transported during the last three years through inland waterways (including waterways other than National Waterways) where origin and destination both lie within India is given below:

| Year - | Cargo moved | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| (in million tonnes) | (in Billion Tonne km) | |
| 2010- 11 - | 72.80 | 3.633 |
| 2011- 12 - | 68.76 | 3.494 |
| 2012- 13 - | 22.01# | 1.114 |

The decrease in cargo movement is primarily due to the ban of iron ore mining in Goa.

(b)&(c): Development and regulation of only those waterways which are declared as National Waterways (NWs) come under the purview of Union Government. Government has so far declared five waterways as National Waterways. The Bill for declaration of Lakhipur – Bhanga stretch of River Barak (121 km) in Assam as 6th National Waterway is in the Parliament for its consideration. To increase the use of National waterways, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has undertaken various measures which include providing inland water transportation infrastructure namely navigational channel, navigation aids and terminals in NW-1, 2 & 3. IWAI has also undertaken a study on Integrated National Transportation Waterways Grid, through M/s RITES, for providing road and rail connectivity at potential terminals.

(d)&(e): Government has allowed inland water limits to be extended upto the base line as notified by the Ministry of External Affairs. This coupled with recent relaxation given in the construction and operation of River-Sea-Vessels by Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) will facilitate coastal shipping in the country.