

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2786
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
SHARING OF WATERWAYS
Ajmal Shri Badruddin

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh for sharing of waterways of both the countries has been renewed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and conditions of agreement;
- (c) the routes identified for sharing of waterways of both countries; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY)

(a) to (c): The Protocol between India and Bangladesh on Inland Water Transit and Trade (which emanated from Article VIII of the Trade Agreement between the two countries) was renewed in March 2009 for a period up to 31st March 2011. It includes following inland water routes on which inland vessels of both the countries can ply for transit and trade:

- (i) Kolkata - Pandu - Kolkata
- (ii) Kolkata-Karimganj- Kolkata
- (iii) Rajshahi - Dhulian - Rajshahi
- (iv) Karimganj - Pandu - Karimganj

There are four ports of call in each country through which inter country trade through inland waterways can take place. These are: Narayanganj, Khulna, Mongla and Sirajganj in Bangladesh and Kolkata, Haldia, Karimganj and Pandu in India. The Protocol includes various terms and conditions for its working covering issues such as conservancy and pilotage, handling facilities, supply of bunkers, assistance to be provided to the vessels in distress, recognition of survey certificates and other documents, sharing of inter country trade and transit cargo, customs checks and documentation etc.

(d): Does not arise.