

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2834
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
NATIONAL AND INLAND WATERWAYS
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the main functions and objectives of Inland Waterways Authority of India;
- (b) the name and length of National Waterways and Inland Waterways at present in the country, separately, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has declared/proposes to declare some Inland Waterways as National Waterways;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) the funds allocated to various States for development of such waterways during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;
- (f) the number of ships being run on such waterways alongwith the quantum and name of the goods being transported through them during the said period, waterways-wise and year-wise;
- (g) whether the minimum prescribed depth of water to navigate the ships on such waterways exists at present; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a): The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was constituted in October 1986 by an Act of Parliament for regulation and development of inland waterways for purposes of shipping and navigation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Primary responsibility of IWAI is development and regulation of inland waterways which have been declared as National Waterways. Besides, IWAI interalia advises Central Government on matters relating to inland water transport.
- (b): So far following five waterways have been declared as National Waterways (NW):
- (i) National Waterway-1: Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga – Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (1620 km) in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
 - (ii) National Waterway-2: Sadiya – Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (891 km) in the State of Assam.
 - (iii) National Waterway-3: Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km) in the State of Kerala.
 - (iv) National Waterway-4: Kakinada-Pudducherry stretch of canals and Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam – Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad - Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna (1095 km) in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, and Union Territory of Pudducherry.
 - (v) National Waterway-5: Talcher-Dhamra stretch of rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia - Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers (620 km) in the States of Orissa and West Bengal.
- NW-4 and NW-5 have been declared as National Waterways only in November, 2008. Proposal for creation of infrastructural facilities on these waterways have been initiated.
- (c) & (d): Govt. proposes to declare one more waterway namely Lakhimpur - Bhanga stretch (121 km) of river Barak in the State of Assam as a National Waterway.
- (e): For development and maintenance of these National Waterways the funds are allocated on year to year basis to IWAI and not to the State Governments. The funds allocated to the Ministry of Shipping/IWAI during 2006-07 to 2009-10 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

2006-07	133.42
2007-08	138.60
2008-09	99.00
2009-10	110.00

(f): The cargo transported on NW-1, 2 & 3 during last three years is given below:

On National Waterway-1 regular transportation of goods takes place between Haldia and Kolkata as lighterage operations and also between Kolkata/Haldia and Bangladesh for export of fly ash etc. Besides, a few cargo vessels of IWA also ply for demonstrative voyages. In addition, small vessels, mainly mechanized country boats, ply in various stretches carrying local cargo and passengers, across/along the river.

On National Waterway-2 regular transportation of goods takes place mostly by small vessels, including mechanized country boats, carrying local cargo of domestic use as well as passengers across/ along the river.

On National Waterway-3 regular cargo transportation by waterway takes place by private sector cargo vessels for fertilizer and chemical industries located on Champakara canal.

The details of transportation of cargo on NW-1, 2 & 3 from 2006-07 onwards is given as under:

National Waterway	Unit	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Type of cargo moved (upto Oct. 2009)
NW-1The Ganga	Tonne	1,317,387	1,497,964	1,348,385	995,582	Cement, general cargo, rice, wood bulk edible oil, POL, fly ash, pulses, stone chips, iron dust etc. logs, packed and
NW-2The Brahmaputra	Tonne	1,086,026	1,304,114	2,26,209	101,452	Cement, POL, building material, fertilizer, food grains, coal, plant & machinery, general cargo, inter-district & inter state cargo etc.
NW-3 West Coast Canal	Tonne	1,022,776	673,127	766,214	379,161	Sulphur, rock, phosphate, liquefied zinc, phosphoric acid, furnace oil, POL, zinc, Potable water etc.
Total	Tonne	3,426,189	3,475,205	2,340,808	1,476,195	

(g) & (h): IWA undertakes river conservancy works namely bandalling and dredging on National Waterways-1 & 2 and capital and maintenance dredging on National Waterway-3 from time to time with a view to maintain minimum 2 m depth in the lower reaches of NW 1 & 2 and entire NW-3 and 1.5 m/1.2 m depth in the upper reaches of NW 1 & 2.