

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3837
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009
UTILISATION OF INLAND NAVIGATION
Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to utilize the Inland Navigation potential in the country including Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the strategy/plan chalked out by the Government for the purpose, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): There are 14500 kms of inland water network in the country out of which five stretches have been declared as National Waterways. They are as under:

(i) National Waterway-1: Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga – Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (1620 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1986. (U.P, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal).

(ii) National Waterway-2: Sadiya – Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (891 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1988 (Assam).

(iii) National Waterway-3: Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1993 (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). Declared as National Waterway in 2008 (A.P, Tamil Nadu and 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). Declared as National Waterway in 2008 (Orissa and West Bengal).

Out of these, National Waterways 1, 2 & 3 are being developed by Inland Waterways Authority of India for shipping and navigation by providing basic inland water transport infrastructure namely navigational channel, navigational aids and terminals. These waterways are already being utilized for movement of various cargo such as fly- ash, cement, stone chips, edible oil, petroleum products, iron-dust, food-grains, coal, project cargo, over dimensional cargo etc.

For National Waterways 4 and 5, which were declared as National Waterways in November 2008 proposals for development of these waterways have been initiated.