

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3006
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
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 particularly for heavy cargo transportation as it provides enormous advantage as compared to other modes of transport;
- (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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) Development and regulation of only those waterways which are declared as National Waterways (NWs) is under the purview of Union Government. The responsibility of development of other waterways rests with the respective State Government. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) is developing NWs for shipping & navigation.

(b)&(c) National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC), 1980 had, inter-alia, assessed the potential of inland water transportation in the country. As per this, there are about 14, 500 km of waterways which are navigable by country boats, out of which about 5685 km of waterways are also navigable by mechanized vessels. However, no specific studies has been undertaken exclusively for transportation of heavy cargo.

(d) The following 5 waterways have so far been declared as NWs:

i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (Allahabad-Haldia-1620 km) in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal declared as NW-1, in 1986.

ii) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri-Sadiya – 891 km) in the State of Assam declared as NW-2 in 1988.

iii) West Coast Canal (Kottapuram-Kollam) along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals – (205 km) in the State of Kerala declared as NW-3 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 declared as NW-4 in 2008.

v) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers (588 km) in the States of West Bengal and Odisha declared as NW-5 in 2008.

The revenue generated through the NWs during the last 3 years is given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2011- 12	6.17
2012- 13	5.31
2013-14	2.82 (as on 31.01.2014)

(e) IWA is developing the National Waterways for shipping and navigation by providing inland water transportation infrastructure namely a navigational channel, navigation aids and terminals. Efforts are being made to develop these National Waterways through budgetary support as well as other modes of funding.

