

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2125
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014
RIVER TRANSPORTATION LINK
Biswas Shri Radheshyam

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a river transportation link service existing between Karimganj and Calcutta through Bangladesh is not being regularly used for cargo transportation;
- (b) if so, the Government's plan to make it a regular service;
- (c) whether the jetty and warehouse at Karimganj maintained by Central Inland Water Transport Corporation for handling and storage of cargo is in critical condition;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is planning to upgrade/ repair the warehouse; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a)&(b): An Inland Water Transport Protocol on Transit & Trade exists between India & Bangladesh under which vessels of one country can transit through the designated routes, which includes the route between Karimganj and Kolkata. Due to depth constrains in the Bangladesh portion of the river between Ashuganj&Karimganj during lean season the vessel operation is limited to 7 months (April to October) only in a year.

(c)to(e): Jetties and warehouses maintained by CIWTC at Karimganj are in workable condition. However, Government proposes to declare Lakhipur- Bhangra stretch of River Barak in Assam as a National Waterway. This would include upgradation of the Karimganj terminal along with the warehouse facilities.