

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1184  
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014  
WATER WAYS ON RIVER GANGA  
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**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has explored the possibility of using rivers including Ganga for transporting cargo;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has allocated Rs. 600 crore for this purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is already using Ganga river to transport fuel from Haldia to Farakka; and
- (e) if so, the new water ways likely to be developed by Government on river Ganga and other rivers including action taken thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c): Development and regulation of only those waterways which are declared as National Waterways come under the purview of Union Government. The responsibility of development of other waterways rests with the respective State Governments. The following waterways have been declared as National Waterways (NWs):

- i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (Allahabad-Haldia-1620 km) in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal as NW-1, declared in 1986.
- ii) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri-Sadiya – 891 km) in the state of Assam as NW-2 declared in 1988.
- iii) West Coast Canal (Kottapuram-Kollam) along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals – (205 km) in the state of Kerala as NW-3 declared 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 as NW-4 declared in 2008.
- v) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmaniriver and Mahanadi delta rivers (588 km) in the states of West Bengal and Odisha as NW-5 declared in 2008.

IWAI through budgetary allocation is developing the National Waterways including National Waterway-1 which is Allahabad-Haldia stretch of river Ganga for shipping and navigation by providing a navigational channel with targeted depth & width for most part of the year, aids for day and night navigation, fixed / floating terminals at selected locations for berthing and loading/ unloading of vessels and intermodal connectivity at a few selected locations. For the 12th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission had allocated Rs. 1500 crore out of which an amount of Rs. 151.53 crore and Rs.134.08 crore has been incurred during the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively. A plan budgetary allocation of Rs. 267 crore has been proposed for the development of National Waterway during 2014-15.

(d)&(e): A contract for transportation of 3 million tonne per year of imported coal for 7 years from Sandheads in Bay of Bengal to NTPC's Power Plant at Farakka through National Waterway – 1 is already under implementation by a private firm. IWAI has also identified some more such projects, inter-alia, including transportation of coal for NTPC's Power Plant at Barh (near Patna), transportation of coal from NTPC's Power Plant at Bongaigaon (Near Jogighopa on National Waterway – 2), transportation of fertilizers on NW-1 and transportation of food grains to Tripura through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol routes.

The Government is proposing to declare Lakhimpur – Bhanga stretch of river River Barak (121 kms.) in the Assam as National Waterway-6.