

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:848

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2014

WATERWAYS

Hemamalini Smt. ;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy;Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the names and length of National Waterways and Inland Waterways at present in the country including Maharashtra including details of the goods transported during each of the last three years and the current year, waterways- wise and year-wise ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that full potential of navigable waterways is not being utilised for cargo and commercial purposes;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government in this regard ;
- (d) whether the Government has declared/proposes to declare some Inland Waterways as National Waterways in the country including Maharashtra; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated to various States for development of such waterways during the aforesaid period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) As per National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC)-1980 report, total navigable inland waterways comprising of rivers, lakes, canals, creeks, backwaters etc. extend to about 14,500 km including 5685 km capable for navigation by mechanically propelled vessels. So far, five waterways with a total length of 4382 km have been declared as National Waterways (NWs). The details of these National Waterways are given below:

- i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (Allahabd-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 Chmpakara 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, Telengana, 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.

As may be seen from the above, there is no National Waterways in Maharashtra. Out of five declared NWs, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is developing NW-1, NW-2 and NW-3 for shipping and navigation by providing inland water transportation infrastructure namely navigational channel, navigation aids and terminals. Development of NW-4 and NW-5 is also been undertaken by IWAI in a phased manner.

The details of cargo moved on NW-1, NW-2 and NW-3 from 2011-12 to 2014-15 (upto September, 2014) are given in the Annexure.

(b)&(c):Yes, Madam. Up to October, 1986 there was no organization for development, maintenance and regulation of Inland Water Transport at the Central Government level. As a result of this Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) could not be developed optimally as compared to Road and Rail transport. After establishment of IWAI in October 1986, systematic development of this mode of transport commenced. Since then various infrastructure facilities, namely navigation channels, terminals and navigation aids have been developed on NW-1, NW-2 and NW-3. Projects for the development of NW-4 and NW-5 have also been taken up. Funding for development of this sector has been steadily increasing in the successive Five Year plan period.

Besides, for development of commercial navigation on NW-1 between Allahabad and Haldia, Government has announced the "Jal Marg Vikas" Project in the Budget of 2014-15.

(d)&(e):It is the endeavour of the Government to promote MT Sector in all the States, including Maharashtra. However, for declaring a waterway as a National Waterway normally the waterway should have capability of navigation by mechanical propelled vessels of a reasonable size and should also have a reasonable continuous navigable stretch.