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Title: Need to start construction of Kottapuram- Mangalore National Waterways.

**SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE):** Kerala is a land of perennial rivers criss-crossing the State. No other State in the Country can be best suited for development of waterways in the country. Kerala today is the home of one of the largest container terminal in the country at Vallarpadam, Kochi recently dedicated to the National by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The development of a dedicated waterway will help cheaper transportation. Today there is National Waterway (NW-3) between Kollam and Kottapuram. Various surveys have been conducted by Inland Waterways Authority for the Kottapuram-Mangalore National Waterways. However, no further concrete action has been evolved. It is suggested that work on the Kottapura-Mangalore line should commence immediately which should also include deepening, widening and strengthening wherever required for proper utilization which apart from boosting the development of the northern part of Kerala will reduce transportation cost especially when Kerala is a consumer state.