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Title: Need to develop the National Waterway No. 5.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): For development of Inland Water Transport, Government of India have declared Talcher Dhamra stretch of Brahmani, Kharasuan-Dhamra river system alongwith Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dharme stretch of Matei river and Mahanadi delta river between Mangalgadi and Paradip as National Waterway No. 5 in the State of West Bengal and Odisha. This has been surveyed through WAFOS. In this regard, the Act had been enacted in Parliament on 18th November 2008. This National Waterways will provide an alternative mode of transportation from coal mines and other industries of Odisha to Pradip, Dhamra and Haldia ports.

The representatives of Paradip Post Trust, NALCO, MCL, OMC etc have showed interest to act as stakeholders in the event of Joint Venture with IWAI to develop the National Waterway No. 5. In the matter of development of Inland Waterway No. 5 in Odisha, especially to connect Industrial hub of Kalinganagar, Anugul and coal belt of Talchar, Mahanadi Coal Field to port of Paradip and Dhamra, the concept paper shows that this stretch will be commercially viable and can be taken up under PPP mode.

I would urge upon the Government to take urgent and necessary steps in this regard.