

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.538
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2021

SHIPPING CHANNELS

538. PROF. SAUGATA RAY:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up new shipping channels for transportation of goods on cost efficient manner across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any State Government has sent new proposal in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) & (b) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is mandated for regulation and development of National Waterways for the purpose of shipping and navigation under the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985. To promote inland water transport (IWT) in the country, 111 waterways (including 5 existing NWs and 106 new waterways) have been declared as National Waterways (NWs) under the National Waterways Act, 2016 spread over 24 States in the country which came into effect from 12th April, 2016. Based on the outcome of techno-economic feasibility and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of NWs, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has concluded that 23 NWs have been found viable for cargo movement. The list of the 23 NWs viable for cargo movement is at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d) Government of Tripura has proposed for declaration of Gumti River as National Waterway. However, the proposed waterway does not have potential for declaration as National Waterway (NW) in terms of cargo potential and economic Inland Water Transport (IWT) operation. The only notable factor is that the above stretch of Gumti river shall connect Tripura State hinterland with Bangladesh through IBP route 9 & 10 (Daudkandi - Sonamura stretch of the river in Bangladesh).

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A proposal to declare waterway stretches from Kollam (Quilon) to Kovalam in South and Kottapuram to Hosdurg in North of Kerala as National Waterway was received from Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kerala in May, 2016. A Techno-Economic Feasibility (TEF) study through National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC- a Govt. of Kerala Institution) was conducted in 2014 with regard to extension of West Coast Canal in the South of Kollam (Quilon) up to Kovalam and North of Kottapuram up to Kasargod. TEF study found only Kottapuram - Kozhikode (Calicut) stretch in the North of Kottapuram technically feasible for development of shipping and navigation and accordingly extension of West Coast Canal up to Kozhikode (Calicut) in the North of Kottapuram was considered in the National Waterways Bill, 2015. Calicut-Neeleswaram stretch which is part of Kottapuram-Hosdurg stretch was not found feasible for development of shipping & navigation as per TEF report. The Kollam (Quilon) – Kovalam stretch (South of Kollam) was also not found technically feasible due to the presence of Varkala tunnel. The above position was conveyed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala in July, 2016. However, later Govt. of Kerala forwarded a proposal for formation of SPV for developing Inland Waterways from Kollam to Kovalam and Kozhikode to Kasargod at a cost of Rs. 6,000 crore.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala was informed by Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport Highways and Shipping in March 2018 that in the absence of any scheme of Govt. of India, the Shipping Ministry would find it difficult to provide financial assistance to implement fairways development of stretches which are not part of declared National Waterways (NWs).

LIST OF 23 NATIONAL WATERWAYS FOUND FEASIBLE FOR CARGO MOVEMENT

Sl. No.	National Waterway No.	Details of Waterways	STATES
1	National Waterway 1	Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Haldia - Allahabad)	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal
2	National Waterway 2	Brahmaputra River (Dhubri - Sadiya)	Assam
3	National Waterway 16	Barak River	Assam
4	National Waterway 3	West Coast Canal (Kottapuram - Kollam), Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals	Kerala
5	National Waterway 4	Krishna River (Vijayawada - Muktyala)	Andhra Pradesh
6	National Waterway 5	Dhamra-Paradio via Mangalagadi to Pankopal	Odisha
7	National Waterway 8	Alappuzha- Changanassery Canal	Kerala
8	National Waterway 9	Alappuzha-Kottayam Athirampuzha Canal	Kerala Alternate route: 11.5km
9	National Waterway 27	Cumberjua River	Goa
10	National Waterway 68	Mandovi River	Goa
11	National Waterway 86	Rupnarayan River	West Bengal
12	National Waterway 97	Sunderbans Waterway	West Bengal
13	National Waterway 111	Zuari River	Goa
14	National Waterway 10	Amba River	Maharashtra
15	National Waterway 44	Ichamati River	West Bengal
16	National Waterway 52	Kali River	Karnataka
17	National Waterway 57	Kopili River	Assam
18	National Waterway 73	Narmada River	Maharashtra & Gujarat
19	National Waterway 83	Rajpuri Creek	Maharashtra
20	National Waterway 85	Revadanda Creek - Kundalika River System	Maharashtra
21	National Waterway 91	Shastri River - Jaigad Creek System	Maharashtra
22	National Waterway 94	Sone River	Bihar
23	National Waterway 100	Tapi River	Maharashtra & Gujarat
