

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOKSABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 913**  
ANSWERED ON-26.07.2024

**CONSTRUCTION OF PORTS IN BIHAR**

913. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

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

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government had announced running/operating container vessels from Varanasi to Haldia via Buxar, Patna, Mokama, Munger, Bhagalpur and Sahebganj in the river Ganga;
- (b) if so, whether these container vessels are operating properly;
- (c) whether ports have been developed/constructed at Buxar, Patna, Mokama, Munger, Bhagalpur and Sahebganj for docking of the vessels as per the instructions of the Government, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to run/operate passenger vessels on the said waterways and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) & (b) The container cargo is moving successfully from Varanasi to Haldia through river Ganga (National Waterways – I) based upon availability of cargo.

(c) Under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) on National Waterways-I (NW-I), development of required infrastructure and facilities for handling cargo container has been taken up by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The facility of container handling and berthing of IWT vessels are available at three Multimodal Terminals - Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia and Intermodal Terminals at Kalughat (Bihar), GaiGhat (Bihar) and GR Jetty (West Bengal). Besides, several floating jetties where vessels can be berthed have also been developed between Varanasi and Haldia.

(d) The mandate to run / operate passenger vessels is with the concerned State Governments. However, IWAI endeavors for promoting IWT ecosystem along NW-1 and is facilitating to boost operations of passenger ferry (Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax, Cruise and

Cargo vessels) along NW-1. To promote cross ferry movement, the work under JMVP-II for development of 60 community jetties has been taken up by IWAI, out of which 49 community jetties have been already installed.

Further, to promote passenger transportation, IWAI has procured two Hybrid Electric Catamaran Vessels (MV Guh and MV Nishadraj) and handed them over to the State Government of UP. India's first Hydrogen Fueled Vessel has also been deployed at Varanasi for demonstration.

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