

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 706**  
ANSWERED ON 07.02.2025

**SECURITY REGULATIONS FOR SHIPS**

706. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

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

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) the steps being taken by the Ministry to update security regulations for the ships operating on Indian waterways;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure implementation of modern navigational support systems for improvement in security on dense shipping routes;
- (c) the measures being taken for increased security of passenger ships operating on internal waterways;
- (d) the plans to implement strict security standards for cargo ships to ensure better compliance and to minimise the accidents; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Ministry to address the shortage of trained personnels for security and navigation of ships in Indian waterways?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) A robust safety framework has been developed to establish a structured approach for safety management, risk mitigation, and response preparedness through following section of Inland Vessels Act, 2021 and rules framed there under:

- Inland Vessels Act, 2021, Chapter VIII Navigation Safety and Signals
- Inland Vessels (Survey and Certification) Rules, 2022.
- Inland Vessels (Safe Navigation, Communication and Signals) Rules, 2022.
- Inland Vessels (Fire Fighting Appliances) Rules, 2022.
- Inland Vessels (Life Saving Appliances) Rules, 2022.
- Inland Vessels (Crew and Accommodation) Rules, 2022.
- Inland Vessels (Prevention and Containment of Pollution) Rules, 2022.

In addition to above, IWAI have framed and notified following regulations: -

- National Waterways, Safety of Navigation and Shipping Regulations, 2002.
- Prevention of Collision on National Waterways Regulations, 2002.

(b) & (c) Steps taken by the Ministry to ensure implementation of modern navigational support systems for improvement in security for inland vessels (cargo and passenger) are-

(i) Inland Vessels (Safe Navigation, Communication and Signals) Rules 2022 have been framed and notified by Central Government to enhance safety, security and efficiency on inland waterways. These rules specifically aim to improve navigation safety by integrating modern navigational aids, communication systems, and signalling protocols to manage the growing volume of traffic on dense shipping routes.

(ii) National River Traffic and Navigation System (NRT&NS) have been formulated to ensure seamless and sustainable movement of Inland vessels and also ensure its safety during navigation.

(iii) Inland Vessels (Design and Construction) Rules 2024 have been notified by Central Government to standardize construction standards. These rules ensure that all vessels operating on inland waterways are constructed with international standards for vessel safety and be safe, reliable, and environmentally compliant.

(d) To implement strict security standards for cargo ships to ensure better compliance and to minimize the accidents, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for movement of vessels registered under the Inland Vessel Act on National Waterways has been prepared and available on IWAI website.

(e) IWAI has already established National Inland Navigation Institute (NINI) at Patna and Maritime Skill Development Centre (MSDC) at Guwahati to provide training to prospective as well as existing Inland Vessel crews, IWT officials such as Surveyors, designated authorities and others. To address the growing need of trained personnel in the IWT Sector, IWAI has identified locations to establish Nine (9) Regional Centres of Excellence to provide World-class training.

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