

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2278**  
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025

**NAVIGATION OF SHIPS**

2278. SHRI LAXMIKANT PAPPU NISHAD:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:  
**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय**

- (a) the time by which the navigation of ships is likely to be started on the river Ganga from Varanasi to Haldia under the Jal Marg Vikas Project;
- (b) whether employment opportunities have been generated for the people of the Mallah and fisherman communities of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal through the navigation of ships;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total cost of ship navigation on the river Ganga from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Haldia, West Bengal under the Jal Marg Vikas Project; and
- (e) the number and details of ships likely to move on this route daily?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Navigation of inland vessels is ongoing on River Ganga [National Waterway-1 (NW-1) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System] from the Haldia to Varanasi.
- (b) & (c) Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is the World Bank assisted project for capacity augmentation of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) passing through the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The implementation of JMVP envisages creation of more than 1.3 lakh direct and indirect employment. Under JMVP, fairway, navigational aids, community jetties and terminals have already been developed with the purpose to energize socio-economic development along banks of River Ganga. These facilities are aimed at inclusive growth by improving livelihood of people living along banks of River Ganga & nearby regions by providing simple logistics solutions. Fifty three (53) community jetties have already been commissioned along NW-1 shall benefit farmers, mallah, fishermen, local traders, horticulturists, artisans, etc. by providing employment opportunities.

(d) Cost for a ship to navigate on the river Ganga from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Haldia, West Bengal depends upon the size, draft, engine capacity, cargo load, river current etc. As per the study conducted by the World Bank, the operating cost of Inland Water Transport (IWT) mode is Rs. 1.2 per Ton Kilometre.

(e) Movement of 4229 vessels in NW-1 recorded during FY 2024-25.

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