

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:375
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF WATERWAYS
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the development of waterways in the country is not encouraging as reported in the Jansatta dated May 21, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the measures being undertaken by the Government for the development of the waterways?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI)

(a), (b) & (c) It is a fact that the development of Inland Waterways in the country has not been commensurate with its potential. However, since the constitution of Inland Waterways Authority of India in 1986, various developmental activities have been undertaken. Three waterways viz. the Ganga (from Allahabad to Haldia), the Brahmaputra (from Sadiya to Dhubri), and the West Coast Canal (from Kollam to Kottapuram alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal canals) have been declared as National Waterways and various infrastructural facilities such as fairways, navigational aids, terminals etc. are being provided thereon. The waterways other than National Waterways are developed by the respective State Governments for which assistance is provided by the Central government under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. With a view to accelerate development of Inland Water Transport (IWT) and involve private sector participation; an Inland Water Transport Policy has been approved by the Government.