

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:490  
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006  
INTRODUCTION OF GOODS CARRIER SHIPS  
Hasan Chaudhary Munawwar

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce goods carrier ships from Varanasi/ Allahabad to Haldia;
- (b) if so, the proposed route thereof and the total amount earmarked for the said work; and
- (c) the time by which the goods carrier ships are likely to be introduced?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) No Sir. However, Government has already introduced fixed schedule demonstration service between Haldia and Patna where requisite Least Available Depth (LAD) is available and maintained. It is expected that successful fixed schedule demonstration services will lead to development of cargo and ultimately private sector will be attracted to operate Cargo Ships between Haldia and Patna on a regular basis.

During monsoon when LAD is available between Allahabad/Varanasi and Patna cargo, ships have operated between these cities as well.

(b) On national waterways No. 1 the route from Allahabad/Varanasi to Haldia is via Patna-Munger-Bhagalpur-Farakka-Tribeni-Kolkata. During 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 46.65 crores has been provided for development and maintenance of this national waterway.

(c) No time frame can be fixed, as the Government does not propose to operate cargo ships (goods carrier ships) on a commercial basis.