

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1122  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006  
CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL WATERWAYS IN KERALA  
Chandrappan Shri C.K.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is considering any proposal to speed up and complete the construction of National Waterways in Kerala, that is the Kanyakumari (Kovalam)-Kollam sector, the Kollam-Kottappuram sector and the Kottappuram-Kasargodu sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the extent to which progress has been made in the construction of these National Waterways;
- (d) whether a special fund to the tune of Rs. 500 crores has been allotted by the Finance Commission to Kerala for the said works; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or being taken to utilize the amount and complete the said works at the earliest?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Kollam-Kottapuram sector of the West Coast Canal alone is part of the National Waterway No.3. The other two sectors, namely, Kovalam to Kollam and Kottapuram to Kasargod are not yet part of the National Waterway.

Accordingly, development works are being carried out by the Central Government on Kollam-Kottapuram sector of the West Coast Canal. The development works being carried out include capital dredging for providing 2 meter Least Available Depth (LAD) for navigation. Provision of channel markings including night navigation facilities, construction of terminals, bank protection works etc. LAD of 2 meter has been provided on the entire sector except for 69 km of length (5 kms in Kottapuram-Kochi and 64 kms in Allapuzha-Kollam stretch). Progress of the capital dredging in remaining part of this sector has been affected due to contractual and legal issues, issues about disposal of dredged material, local issues such as removal of fishing nets etc. Efforts are on to solve these problems with the help of the State Government.

Terminals have also been constructed at 7 locations namely Kottapuram, Aluva, Kayamkulam, Trikkunnapuzha, Viakom, Cherthala and Maradu (Ernakulam). Night navigation facilities have also been provided between Kochi and Allapuzha.

(d) & (e) Information is being collected regarding any award given by Finance Commission for the said works other than National Waterway.