

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1254  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007  
GROWTH OF INLAND WATER TRANSPORT SECTOR  
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**Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of infrastructure available and business performance of inland water transport sector during the last three years ;
- (b) the growth projections of the sector in the next five years and the steps taken to achieve the projected growth and development;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to encourage private investment in the sector and set up public joint venture for vessel building and construction of terminals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) : Details of available infrastructure on existing National Waterways i.e Ganga – Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Haldia to Allahabad (NW-1), the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (NW-2) and the West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals (NW-3), are at Annex-I. Cargo transported by Inland Water Transport (IWT) mode (organized sector) in the country in last three years is as under:-

Year	Cargo movement	
	(in billion tonne km)	
2003-04	1.628	
2004-05	2.468	
2005-06		2.823

(b) : The target is to achieve 20 billion tonne km of cargo transportation by IWT mode in the organized sector by the year 2025 from the present level of 2.82 billion tonne km. In the next five years i.e up to 2011-12 it is estimated that IWT transportation would reach a level of 5.0 billion tonne km.

The steps proposed for achieving this projected growth are as under :-

- (i) Making the three existing National Waterways fully functional.
- (ii) Declaration and development of new National Waterways.
- (iii) Encouraging private sector in development, operation and management of IWT infrastructure.
- (iv) Providing facilitative framework for increasing IWT fleet under private ownership.

(c) & (d): A beginning has been made by signing four Memoranda of Understanding

(MoUs) one for setting up of a Joint Venture for construction and operation of three floating jetties at Bandel, Kolaghat and Budge-Budge in West Bengal and three for setting up of Joint Ventures for acquisition, operation and management of barges on Kolkata-Mongla, Kolkata-Dhubri and Kolkata-Pandu routes. More private investment is expected after the three NWs and made fully functional. Action is already underway to speed up setting up of essential infrastructure.