

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3825
ANSWERED ON 05/04/2022

WATER TRANSPORT TOWARDS VARANASI

3825. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the actual status of the water transportation from Prayagraj to Varanasi;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the scheme of building waterway between Haldia-Varanasi with the technical and financial assistance from World Bank is hanging in balance due to river Ganga being shallow between Prayagraj and Varanasi, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to review the failure of the said scheme?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The waterway between Prayagraj to Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-I (NW-I) is navigable for about 6 months in a year. During this period cross river movements are carried out. During lean period, due to various shoals, hard strata and erection of pontoon bridges, it becomes difficult to navigate in the stretch.
- (b)&(c) Inland Waterways Authority of India has undertaken implementation of Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) in the Haldia –Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (Ganga - Bhagirathi- Hooghly River System) at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 4633.81 cr. with technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. This project has no impact of shallow patches upstream of Varanasi (i.e. Prayagraj - Varanasi) as the navigation under JMVP is from Haldia to Varanasi. The project implementation is progressing as per schedule. Further, with concerted efforts under JMVP, the cargo movement on NW-1 has shown growth of 46.8% i.e. from 6.79 million metric tons in 2018-19 to 9.97 Million Metric Tons in 2021-22.
