

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 952**  
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2024

**DEVELOPMENT OF RIVER PORTS AT KARIMGANJ AND BADARPUR TOWNS**

952. SHRI MISSION RANJAN DAS:

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

- (a) whether Government had developed river ports at Karimganj Town and Badarpur Town few years back;
- (b) whether Government will take steps for starting cargo in both the ports and launch service from Kolkata to Lakhimpur via Bangladesh and through the rivers Kushiara and Barak in India, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken steps for making this route an all weather route, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a)&(b) Yes. A scheme for providing 35% incentive to promote the utilization of inland waterway transport sector by cargo owners and for establishing scheduled service for cargo movement on NW-1, NW-2 and NW-16 via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route has been approved by the Government. This scheme envisages to divert 800 million tonne Km cargo on IWT mode, which is nearly 17% of the current cargo of 4700 million tonne Km on NWs. The scheme also aims to start a scheduled waterway cargo service between Kolkata and Varanasi/Pandu through Shipping Corporation of India.

(c) The stretch between Badarpur to Bhanga has been awarded to Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) for maintenance of navigational channel to provide required fairway in the stretch. Additionally, maintenance dredging in Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch of the Kushiara river in Bangladesh has been undergoing with 80% financial support from Govt. of India.

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