

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 318
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2025

CARGO TRANSPORTATION IN MADHYA PRADESH

318. DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI:

Will the MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for cargo transportation by means of cruise on inland waterways from Barwani in Madhya Pradesh to Statue of Unity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the introduction of 'Jalvahak' scheme would improve the efficiency and sustainability of cargo transport on inland waterways of India?

ANSWER

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

(a) &(b) A tripartite agreement has been entered between Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Government of Gujarat and Government of Madhya Pradesh for passenger cruise from Barwani to Statue of Unity. Two floating jetties at Sakarja & Kukhsi are provided with funds from Government of Madhya Pradesh and provision for two more jetties at Hanfeswar and upstream of Sardar Sarovar Dam in Narmada River from Government of India. However, there is no proposal of cargo transportation by cruise between Barwani & Statue of Unity.

(c) The "Jalvahak" Scheme, launched on 15.12.2024, aims to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of cargo transportation across India's extensive network of inland waterways in the following ways: -

1. Incentivize modal shift to waterways to increase cargo movement: The IWT sector, unlike ports, is in its nascent stage and requires support to promote modal shift of cargo, in addition to creation of physical infrastructure. Based on a model followed in the developed countries where financial packages are offered to cargo owners to facilitate modal shift to waterways, the Jalvahak Scheme offers incentive to the extent of 35% of the total actual operating expenditure incurred on waterways journey to cargo owners for modal shift of cargo from rail/ road to IWT. Jalvahak Scheme incentivizes long haul cargo movement on National Waterway-1 (NW-1), National Waterway-2 (NW-2) and National Waterway-16 (NW-16) via Indo-Bangladesh

Protocol (IBP) Route providing an opportunity to the trade interests to explore cargo movement through waterways.

2. **Scheduled Services:** Under Jalvahak Scheme, scheduled services have been introduced, which are crucial for improving the reliability and predictability of cargo transportation on India's inland waterways. These scheduled services ensure that vessels operate on a consistent timetable, allowing businesses to plan their logistics more efficiently. This predictability helps in reducing delays and ensures timely delivery of goods, fostering confidence among stakeholders in the reliability of waterway transport. The routes identified for scheduled services are Kolkata - Patna - Varanasi stretch of NW-1 and between Kolkata and Pandu in Guwahati on NW-2 via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route. Schedule service aims to provide reliable, cost effective and efficient cargo movement on NW-1, NW-2 and NW-16 via IBP route to demonstrate readiness of waterways and to boost confidence of the stakeholders in IWT sector.
