

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2080
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2025

CARGO PROMOTION SCHEME

2080. SHRI PRADIP KUMAR VARMA:

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

- (a) the objectives and aims of Cargo Promotion Scheme; and
- (b) the expected benefits therefrom?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The objectives and aims of Cargo Promotion Scheme (Jalvahak) are as follows:-
 - I. Provide impetus to modal shift of cargo to Inland Water Transport (IWT) mode by incentivizing such shift and
 - II. Demonstrate the reliability as well as readiness of the IWT sector for the purpose of boosting confidence of the stakeholders.
- (b) Expected economic benefits from promoting cargo transportation on inland waterways are as under:
 - I. Reduced Logistics Cost: -IWT can help reduce logistics cost, making cargo movement more competitive. The cost of transportation of 1 tonne cargo for 1 km is Rs. 2.58 by road, Rs. 1.41 by rail and Rs. 1.06 by waterways.
 - II. Decongestion of Roads & Railways: - Diverting cargo to waterways reduces pressure on roads and railways, leading to less wear and tear, fewer accidents, and lower maintenance costs.
 - III. Boost to Trade & Industry: -Efficient cargo movement via waterways can help industries like steel, cement, coal, fertilizers and food grains by providing a cost-effective logistics option. Encourages coastal shipping and multimodal transport, improving supply chain efficiency.
 - IV. Employment Generation: -Expanding IWT creates jobs in port infrastructure, vessel operations, shipbuilding, and logistics. The growth of riverine tourism and passenger transport adds further employment opportunities.
 - V. Infrastructure Development & Regional Growth: -Investment in river ports, terminals, and jetties leads to regional economic development. Development of hinterland connectivity boosts trade in remote and landlocked areas.
