

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO- \*209**  
ANSWERED ON-06.08.2018

**GANGA WATERWAYS FROM KOLKATA TO VARANASI**

\*209. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to use Ganga river from Kolkata to Varanasi for transporting goods;
- (b) if so, whether the river has the required depth all along and other required infrastructure such as road connectivity, etc.; and
- (c) by when it is going to commence?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING  
(SHRI NITIN GADKARI)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.\*209 for 06.08.2018 raised by Dr. Kanwar Deep Singh, M.P. on “Ganga Waterways from Kolkata to Varanasi”**

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) costing Rs.5369 crore is being implemented by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for capacity augmentation of navigation on the Haldia – Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) i.e. Ganga-Bhagirathi- Hooghly River System with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. The objective of the project is to provide an assured depth of 2.2 to 3.0 meters and a bottom channel of 45 meters for at least 330 days in a year to make NW-1 navigable for vessels up to 2000 Dead Weight Tonnage.

The salient features of the project are construction of three multimodal terminals, two intermodal terminals with road/rail connectivity, five pairs of Ro-Ro terminals, one new navigational lock at Farakka, integrated vessel repair and maintenance facilities, automated information techniques of Differential Global Positioning Systems (DGPS) and River Information System (RIS), day and night navigation aids, slipways, bunkering facilities, river training, river conservancy works etc.

Maintenance dredging is being executed to achieve the required depth on NW-1 through performance based dredging contracts.

The project is scheduled to be completed by 2022-23.

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**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2205**  
ANSWERED ON-06.08.2018

**CAPACITY UTILISATION AT VOC PORT**

2205. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that total capacity utilisation and income generated during the last three years of VOC Port, Tuticorin has improved to a considerable extent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any developmental activity or initiated new projects at VOC Port, Tuticorin;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING  
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b) Total capacity utilization of V.O. Chidambaranar Port has reduced during 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 and 2015-16 due to reduction of import of thermal coal, Fertilizers, Fertilizers raw material, Industrial Coal and Wheat and reduction in export of construction material.

The details regarding capacity utilization and income generated by V.O.Chidambaranar Port for the last three years are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Year	Total Capacity (in MMT)	Actual Capacity Utilized (in MMT)	Capacity Utilization (in Percentage)	Operating Income (Rupees in Crores)
1.	2015-16	44.55	36.85	82.72%	550.99
2.	2016-17	46.78	38.46	82.21%	597.93
3.	2017-18	65.90	36.58	55.51%	614.84(Unaudited)

(c) and (d) The Government has initiated the following projects at V.O. Chidambaranar Port:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1.	Construction of dedicated berth for handling coastal cargo at VOCPT
2.	Construction of shallow berth for handling construction materials at VOCPT
3.	Construction of North Cargo Berth-III .
4.	Upgradation of Coal Jetty I & II including Retrofitting works at VOCPT

(e) Does not arise.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
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**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2206**  
ANSWERED ON-06.08.2018

**WAGE HIKE FOR PORT WORKERS**

2206. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of Shipping be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bipartite Wage Negotiation Committee has agreed for a wage hike to port workers, as part of the wage settlement recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the wage will be revised every five years due to increasing Consumer Price Index and if so, the number of major port trusts that would get the benefit;
- (d) whether the demand for centrally operated common pension fund for all major ports was acceded to; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING  
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (c) The Bipartite Wage Negotiation Committee comprising of representatives of Management and Labour Federations has considered the Common Charter of Demands (including the periodicity of wage revision) raised by the Labour Federations. Group C & D employees of all the Major Ports except Kamarajar Port Ltd. will be benefited. The recommendation of the Committee is still awaited.

(d) & (e) No, Sir. Each Major Port Trust is a separate legal entity which manages their own Pension Fund.

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**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2207**  
ANSWERED ON-06.08.2018

**CONTROLLING STAKE IN DCIL**

2207. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the major ports have been asked to acquire a controlling stake in Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL):
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set up a panel comprising Chairmen of some ports trusts to discuss the proposal;
- (d) whether Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) has been completed after undertaking the asset valuation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING  
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) and (b) During the meeting chaired by Secretary (Shipping) with Chairmen/Chairmen I/C of Major Ports held on 18.06.2018, disinvestment proposal of Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCI) was discussed and it was suggested that Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT), Paradip Port Trust (PPT) and New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) based on the availability of surplus fund lying with them may strive to acquire shares of DCI given the linkage of dredging activity with the Ports.

(c) Yes, a committee to understand the modalities with regard to proposal of acquiring shares of DCI, has been constituted.

(d) and (e) No.

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