

Bill No. XXIII of 2013

**THE NATIONAL WATERWAY (LAKHIPUR-BHANGA STRETCH OF
THE BARAK RIVER) BILL, 2013**

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BILL

to provide for the declaration of the Lakhipur-Bhanga Stretch of the Barak River to be a national waterway and also to provide for the regulation and development of the said Stretch of that river for the purposes of shipping and navigation on the said waterway and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the National Waterway (Lakhipur-Bhanga Stretch of the Barak River) Act, 2013.

Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. The Lakhipur-Bhanga Stretch of the Barak River, the limits of which are specified in the Schedule, is hereby declared to be a National Waterway.

Declaration of Lakhipur-Bhanga Stretch of Barak River to be National Waterway.

3. It is hereby declared that it is expedient in the public interest that the Union should take under its control the regulation and development of Lakhipur-Bhanga Stretch of the Barak River for the purposes of shipping and navigation on the National Waterway to the extent provided in the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.

Declaration as to expediency of control by the Union of Lakhipur-Bhanga Stretch of Barak River for certain purposes.

THE SCHEDULE

(See Section 2)

LIMITS OF THE NATIONAL WATERWAY (LAKHIPUR-BHANGA STRETCH OF THE BARAK RIVER)

The eastern limit of the waterway shall be a line drawn across the Barak River in the State of Assam at Lakhipur ferry ghat (at latitude $24^{\circ} 47' 26''$ north and longitude $93^{\circ} 00' 14''$ east) and the western limit shall be a line drawn across the Barak River at a distance of two hundred meters east of its bifurcation point at Bhanga (at latitude $24^{\circ} 52' 33''$ north and longitude $92^{\circ} 29' 48''$ east).

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985 (82 of 1985) constituted the Inland Waterways Authority of India for the regulation and development of inland waterways for the purposes of shipping and navigation. The Central Government has already declared a number of stretches of various rivers or canals as National Waterways.

2. Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River, Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra River, Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast canal and Champakaran and Udyogmandal canals, Kakinada-Puducherry stretch of canals and the Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of River Krishna and Talcher-Dhamra stretch of rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of east coast canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers have already been declared as national waterways and the Inland Waterways Authority of India has taken up the development, maintenance and management of these national waterways.

3. It is now proposed to declare the Lakhimpur-Bhanga stretch of Barak River in Assam as a National Waterway. Infrastructure facilities currently available on this waterway are not adequate for safe, convenient and sustained shipping and navigation by large mechanised crafts. Therefore, the waterway is required to be developed by providing adequate infrastructure for safe, convenient and sustained shipping operations. The regulation and development of the proposed National Waterway under the control of the Union for the purposes of shipping and navigation is in the public interest and declaration to that effect has also been made in this Bill.

4. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

NEW DELHI;
The 22nd February, 2013.

G. K. VASAN

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

It is estimated that inland water transport traffic to the tune of 12.45 lakh tonnes is likely to be carried on the proposed national waterway after its full development by the year 2018-19. This traffic is expected to be handled at four terminals, namely Lakhipur, Karimganj, Silchar and Badarpur. The work will include development of the river along with provisions of infrastructure facilities for the purpose of shipping and navigation, channel marking, construction of terminals, transit sheds, installation of handling equipment, etc. It is estimated that the expenditure in respect of the said development will be of the order of rupees one twenty-three crore and thirty lakh at 2012 prices. This expenditure will be of a non-recurring nature.

2. It is also estimated that an expenditure of recurring nature of the order of rupees three crores and sixteen lakh annually will be incurred for maintenance dredging, maintenance of navigation aids, terminals etc.

3. The provisions of the Bill do not involve any other expenditure of a recurring or non-recurring nature.

RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri G. K. Vasan, Minister of Shipping)