

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2719**  
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2025

**PROMOTINO OF INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY TO PORTS**

2719. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN AND DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether Government is keen in promoting Cruise and passenger ship services from Chennai and Pondicherry to Sri Lanka, Andaman & Nicobar islands, Singapore and other international destinations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Cruise services has a business potential of ₹20,000 crore/annum in the next few years and if so, the details thereof: and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that Government is allowing foreign cruise companies to operate cruise services in the country and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) Chennai Port had 10 International Cruise Ship Calls in FY 2024-25. The Government of Puducherry had accorded permission to M/s. Cordelia Cruise, Mumbai to commence Cruise Vessel services to Pondicherry from July 2025. Subsequently, the Cruise Vessel "MV EMPRESS" of M/s. Cordelia Cruise, Mumbai has made three voyages successfully (Chennai-Vizag-Puducherry-Chennai). In FY 2024-25, 91 International Cruise ship calls were made at Indian ports.

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