

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 317
ANSWER ON 22.07.2025

CRUISE BHARAT MISSION

317. SHRI MOKARIYA RAMBHAI:

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

- (a) the details of, the recent successes that demonstrate the effectiveness of the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' in promoting cruise passenger traffic;
- (b) the strategies being adopted to bring together sea, river and island cruise circuits under an integrated national plan; and
- (c) the manner in which Government plans to measure the long-term impact of the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' on employment and coastal economy?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Puducherry Port has been recently operationalized for cruise services, with *Empress of Cordelia Cruises* making its inaugural call on 04 July 2025. Changes in regulatory processes have been brought about; such as introduction of Cruise QR Code clearance system for passengers by Immigration, digitized customs procedures for ships by customs (CBIC advisory 26/2024, dated 08.11.2024) and change of advance remittance for lease payment for ships by RBI {RBI Circular No. RBI/2025-26/55 A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 07 dated 13 June 2025}. During FY 2024–25, total cruise tourism footfall reached 4.92 lakh passengers, with 272 cruise calls as compared to 4.71 lakh passengers and 253 cruise calls in FY 2023–24.

(c) As per the Key Performance Indicators of the Cruise Bharat Mission, the initiative aims to generate approximately 0.4 million jobs and cruise passenger footfall is targeted to increase to 10 lakh passengers by 2029.
