

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†4984
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018**

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM THROUGH GANGA RIVER

†4984. SHRI KIRTI AZAD:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any such scheme through which the tourists can be attracted to travel by the National Waterways in the river Ganga;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government provides lodging facilities in the cities along the banks of river Ganga to the tourists during their travel;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the duration of this journey; and**
- (e) the number of domestic and foreign tourists who undertook this journey during the last three years and the current year?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourism including river tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The 'Inland Waterways Authority of India' (IWAI) develops and regulates national waterways declared by the Government for shipping and navigation.

The infrastructure developed for movement of cargo along the national waterways by IWAI including fairway, terminals, jetties, navigation aids etc. are used by the river tourism operators also. IWAI also facilitates movement of cruise vessels through pilotage and sharing of electronic navigation charts.

River cruise tourism has been a regular feature on National Waterway-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system) for last many years. Various cruise operators operate their cruise vessels on National Waterway-1 and Sunderbans Waterways.

Construction of lodging facilities/hotels is primarily a private sector activity. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India only classifies operational hotels under its voluntary scheme of classification/approval of hotels.

(e): The Ministry of Tourism does not maintain any data regarding domestic and foreign tourists undertaking journey on River Ganges.
