

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1959
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2018**

TASK FORCE ON CRUISE TOURISM

1959. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force on Cruise Tourism jointly by the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Shipping with representatives of all major stakeholders;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made by the Committee and the response of the Government thereto;**
- (c) the estimated number of cruise tourist passengers presently visiting India;**
- (d) whether the Government has fixed any target to increase the flow of cruise tourists in the country and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the expenditure incurred by his Ministry for development of cruise infrastructure and upgradation of cruise terminals in various parts of the country?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. A Task Force on Cruise Tourism has been formed jointly by the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Shipping with representatives of all major ports and stakeholders for coordinated efforts to create an enabling ecosystem for the development of Cruise Tourism in India. The Task Force meets regularly and the last meeting of the Task Force was held on 21.05.2018.

(c): During the year 2017-18, a total of 1,62,660 cruise passengers visited India at six major ports namely Mumbai Port, Chennai Port, Cochin Port, Kolkata Port, New Mangalore Port and Mormugao Port.

(d): The Government has taken following steps to increase the flow of cruise tourists in the country:

- (i) Foreign flag vessels carrying passengers with effect from 6th February, 2009 have been allowed to call at Indian ports for a period of 10 years without obtaining a license from Director General of Shipping. This facility has been extended further for a period of 5 years i.e. up to 5th February, 2024.**
- (ii) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for cruise vessels have been revised and operationalized w.e.f. November, 2017 for uniform, redefined processes to be observed by all major ports.**
- (iii) Immigration counters have been set up at five major ports visited by cruise ships. The facility of E-visa has been extended to five sea ports namely Mumbai, Goa, New Mangalore, Cochin and Chennai.**
- (iv) Cruise tourists arriving with E-visa have been exempted from the requirement of biometric enrolment for a period of three years i.e. till 31.12.2020 to facilitate expeditious immigration clearance.**
- (v) The port charges have been reduced and all major ports now charge a uniform single rate of \$0.35 per Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) for first 12 hours of stay w.e.f 3rd November, 2017 and will remain in force for a period of three years.**
- (vi) The ports do not levy any priority/ousting/shifting charges for berthing the cruise vessel.**
- (vii) Walk-in berthing/preferential berthing to homeport cruise without any extra charge is now available.**
- (viii) To address manpower, coordination and logistic issues for handling cruise vessels at ports, Port Level Facilitation Committees have been formed under the respective Chairman of the above-mentioned major Ports to facilitate seamless handling of cruise ships and passengers**

(e): The Ministry of Shipping has informed that a new International Cruise Terminal at Mumbai has been sanctioned with approximate cost of Rs.300 Crore in a PPP Mode and another cruise terminal facility in the Ernakulum Wharf of Cochin Port for bigger ships has also been proposed with an estimated cost of Rs.25.72 crore.

The Ministry of Tourism has also sanctioned various projects for the development of Cruise Terminals and related infrastructure in Goa, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu at the major ports for Rs.106.39 Crore under the Scheme for 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development'.
