

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1069
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018**

INTRODUCTION OF CRUISE TOURISM IN GANGA

1069. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce cruise tourism on Ganga and other river beds and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is a huge/significant potential of river tourism in the country specially on Ganga river from Varanasi to Kolkata covering pilgrimage and tourism spots and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the details of river-circuits identified by the Government along with their promotion proposals?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

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

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 Sunderban Waterways. As informed by Ministry of Shipping, the following circuits have been identified for

promotion of cruise operations on National Waterways-I, National Waterways-2 and on Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route:

(A) National Waterways-I:

- (i) Allahabad Circuit**
- (ii) Varanasi Circuit**
- (iii) Patna Circuit**
- (iv) Bhagalpur Circuit**
- (v) Kolkata Circuit**

(B) National Waterways-2:

- (i) Guwahati Circuit**
- (ii) Tezpur Circuit**

(C) Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route:

- (i) Margla Circuit**
- (ii) Barisal Circuit**
- (iii) Narayanganj Circuit**

The Ministry of Tourism has received a proposal from IWAI for development of Jetties at various points of embarkation/disembarkation of river cruises on National Waterway-1 and 2.
