

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.666
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023**

STATUS OF CRUISE TOURISM IN KERALA

666. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State of Kerala has huge potential for cruise tourism;**
- (b) the extant status of cruise tourism in the State as on date;**
- (c) the reasons for the less development of cruise tourism in Kerala despite having huge potential;**
- (d) the quantum of funds allocated for the development of cruise tourism in Kerala during each of the last three years;**
- (e) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for the promotion and development of cruise tourism in Kerala; and**
- (f) if so, the quantum of employment that is likely to be generated through such an action plan?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): Kerala has tremendous potential for Cruise Tourism. Cruise Tourism has been developed in Kerala.

As conveyed by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cochin port has hosted over 380649 passengers and 173110 crew arrived in 327 cruise vessels in the last 10 years. The details of cruise arrivals at Cochin Port for the last 10 years are at Annexure.

Cochin is one of the leading ports in India. Besides the international cruise calls, Cochin Port also host domestic cruises with the commencement of services of Cordelia Cruise since September 2021. So far, 28 domestic calls carrying 53826 passengers have been handled. The average embarkation has increased to 1128 passengers per call during 2022-23 against 878 passengers per call during 2021-22.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is mandated for regulation and development of National Waterways (NW) for shipping and navigation. NW-3, NW-8 & NW-9 in Kerala have been taken up for comprehensive development by IWAI. Infrastructure developed on National Waterways by IWAI is also utilized by tourist vessels.

(d): Ministry of Tourism under its schemes, has sanctioned the following projects for development of Cruise Tourism / Infrastructure at Cochin Port in Kerala:-

Swadesh Darshan Scheme:-

Year of Sanction	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crore)
2018-19	Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project	57.35

Assistance to Central Agencies:-

Year of Sanction	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
2018-19	Developing infrastructure at Cochin Port Cruise Terminal	120.79
2018-19	Creation of additional tourism facilities at the Cochin Port Trust Walkway	466.47
2019-20	CFA for Development of Additional Infrastructure in the new Cochin Port Trust Terminal	1029.70

(e) and (f): To position India as a preferred destination for cruise tourism globally, Ministry of Tourism has drafted a National Strategy for Cruise Tourism. Following strategic pillars have been identified in the strategy document for infrastructure & circuit enablement, market development and skill development:

- **Infrastructure & Circuit Enablement**
- **Market Development**
- **Ease of doing Business for Cruise Tourism**
- **Integrated Tourism around Cruise Terminals**
- **Facilitating and Promoting Investment in Cruise Tourism**
- **Skill Development for Cruise Tourism**
- **Institutional Structure and Governance**

Also as informed by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Job opportunities are created for Tour Operators, Tourist Guides, etc., in connection with arrival of cruise ships. The District Tourism Promotion Council, Ernakulam under the Government of Kerala is operating a Prepaid taxi/auto counter with more than 400 vehicles for Cruise tourists on arrival generating direct employment to the drivers. Cochin Port allots stalls for local traders selling handicrafts and local items, promoting local economy.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.666 ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023 REGARDING STATUS OF CRUISE TOURISM IN KERALA

The details of cruise arrivals at Cochin Port for the last 10 years

Year	No. of Vessels	Passengers	Crew
2022-23	31	36403	13821
2021-22	9	14004	5270
2020-21	0	0	0
2019-20	44	67907	30718
2018-19	49	62753	28828
2017-18	42	47,727	21552
2016-17	46	57129	27493
2015-16	33	35541	16247
2014-15	39	32031	14925
2013-14	34	27154	14256
Total	327	380649	173110
