

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2083
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023

CRUISE SERVICES

2083. SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:

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

पत्तन, पोतपरिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the action taken by the Government for development of cruise services in various Ports in the country;
- (b) whether the development of cruise services is limited to Tourism only and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans for development of Ports in the country while developing cruise services;
- (d) if so, the list of such Ports that are proposed to be developed;
- (e) whether it is true that, a plan has been submitted for the development of Mumbai Port; and
- (f) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government to develop the Port of Mumbai Port Authority to generate more revenue?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The action taken by the Government for development of Cruise Services across the country are as under:-
 - i. For berthing, cruise vessel is given priority over cargo vessel;
 - ii. Rationalised cruise tariff has been introduced.
 - a. Port charges are recovered @ \$0.085/GRT (fixed rate) and a nominal passenger head tax of \$ 6 for first 12 hours of stay at berth.
 - b. Cruise ships are provided discounts ranging from 10% to 30% based on volume of their calls.
 - iii. Removal of ousting charges to attract cruise vessels;
 - iv. Provisions for volume discount in Port Tariff ranging from 10 to 30% have been extended;

- v. Cabotage has been waived for foreign cruise vessels. This relaxation allows foreign cruise ships to transport Indian nationals from one Indian Port to another Indian Port during their domestic leg;
- vi. E-Visa and on-arrival visa facilities have been extended;
- vii. In order to promote tourism, conditional IGST exemption has been approved for foreign flag foreign going vessel when it converts to coastal run, subject to its reconversion to foreign going vessel within six months.
- viii. During Global Maritime India Summit, October, 2023, sessions on 'Embark on a voyage to attract 50 million Cruise Passengers in India by 2047' and a 'Roundtable with Cruise lines' were organized with participation of stakeholders
- ix. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for uniform & pre-defined services by various stakeholders like Port, Customs, Immigration, CISF, Port Health, Cruise agent, Cruise Terminal Operators, State Govt., Tourism Boards, etc has been implemented;
- x. Single e-Landing Card has been introduced which is valid for all ports in cruise itinerary;
- xi. Active engagement in all Cruise Trade Sea Trade conclaves globally are ensured;
- xii. Cruise Facilitation meeting for every voyage with cruise stakeholders such as Ports, Immigration, Tourism Boards, Port Health Officer, Customs, Taxation body, Security, Cruise are arranged;
- xiii. Training/Sensitization sessions are held every year.

(b) In addition to tourism, Cruises also provide services for weddings, conferences, award functions, movie events, and other entertainments viz casinos.

(c) & (d) Yes. Currently seven Indian Cruise Ports across India in Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Vizag and Kolkata are welcoming Cruise passengers with current infrastructure. Steps have been taken up to upgrade/modernize the cruise infrastructure with excellent passenger amenities at ports including Mumbai, Mormugao and Kolkata to handle bigger vessels and a larger volume of passenger traffic with reduced turnaround time. Further, Cochin, New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA), Chennai & Vizag have lately developed new Cruise Terminals.

(e)& (f) A Master Plan has been prepared by Mumbai Port Authority (MhPA) for its area along the eastern water front. The studies related with traffic and marine activities have been conducted.
