

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3366
ANSWERED ON 05/08/2022

CRUISE SERVICE

3366. SHRI A. RAJA:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether any cruise service is being operated recently from Vizag to Chennai and Puducherry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cruise terminals have been developed at the respective places for berthing and travel;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the cost involved in each terminal and the source of funding; and
- (e) whether cargo services have also been started on regular basis and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a & b) Yes, Cruise Service is operating from Vizag to Chennai. There is no Cruise Service from Vizag to Puducherry. M.V. Empress Cruise Vessel has commenced its operation from Chennai Port to Vizag on 04.06.2022.

(c & d) A Cruise Terminal is being developed at Vizag at an estimated cost of Rs. 96.05 Crores (Berth cost: Rs. 64.24Cr. and Terminal Building cost: Rs. 31.81 Cr). Work order has been issued on 24.01.2022 for construction of Cruise berth and for construction of terminal building on 02.02.2022. The anticipated date of completion is April, 2023. The capacity of passengers that can be accommodated is around 2,500 members. 50% of the project cost is to be funded by Ministry of Tourism and remaining 50% is to be funded by Sagarmala and Visakhapatnam Port Authority through internal resources.

At Chennai, the existing passenger terminal at WQ IV at Chennai Port Authority has been modernized at overall cost of Rs. 17.21 crores under the financial assistance of Rs. 17.24 Crores sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism and the state of the art Passenger cum Cruise terminal with international standard was inaugurated on 12.10.2018

(e) Regular Container Vessels CVI (China Vietnam India Service), MDI (Madras Midweek Service), and FME (Far East Madras Express), IEX/EPIC3 are plying between Chennai Port and Vizag Port.
