

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.41
ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024**

CRUISE TOURISM

**41 SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:
SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any assessment to identify the potential routes for cruise tourism including but not limited to inland and coastal in the country, if so, the details thereof State-wise, including the State of Andhra Pradesh;**
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the details of the steps/initiatives undertaken by the Government for the promotion of such cruise tourism across the country especially in the State of Andhra Pradesh;**
- (d) the details regarding the skill development initiatives undertaken by the Government specifically for such cruise tourism across the country, State-wise especially in the State of Andhra Pradesh;**
- (e) the details regarding the steps/initiatives undertaken by the Government for attracting investments for development of such cruise tourism;**
- (f) whether the Government has established a simpler tax regime with regards to cruise tourism as announced in the Budget 2024-25, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (g) whether the Government has/is planning to establish a National Cruise Tourism Board and a National Coordination Body for coordination among different bodies, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (g): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, including cruise tourism, is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration.

As part of its on-going activities, the Ministry of Tourism regularly promotes India as a holistic tourism destination including cruise tourism through various mediums including social media and websites.

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.

Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the Central Government Agencies for development of tourism, including Cruise Tourism and Cruising along rivers on receipt of complete proposals under the Scheme of 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development'.

In addition, Ministry of Tourism has identified Coastal Circuit as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

As conveyed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, the following steps/initiatives have been undertaken by the Government for the promotion of such cruise tourism in the country:

- (i) For berthing, cruise vessels are given priority over cargo vessels.**
- (ii) Rationalized cruise tariff has been introduced in terms of standard port charges and a nominal passenger head tax. Further, provision of discount ranging from 10% to 30% based on volume of their calls is also provided for in Port Tariff.**
- (iii) Removal of ousting charges to attract cruise vessels.**
- (iv) 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 its domestic leg.**
- (v) E-Visa and on-arrival visa facilities have been extended.**
- (vi) Conditional IGST exemption has been approved for foreign flag foreign going vessels when it converts to coastal run, subject to its re-conversion to foreign going vessels within six months.**
- (vii) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for uniform & pre-defined services by various stakeholders like Ports, Customs, Immigration, CISF, Port Health, Cruise agent, Cruise Terminal Operators, State Government, Tourism Boards, etc. has been implemented.**
- (viii) Single e-Landing Card has been introduced which is valid for all ports in cruise itinerary.**
- (ix) Cruise Bharat Mission has been launched in September, 2024.**

The Ministry of Tourism conducts demand driven training courses under its “Capacity Building for Service Providers (CBSP)” scheme.

The Union Budget 2024-25 has put in place a presumptive taxation regime for domestic cruise ship operations of non-residents. Further, exemption is provided for any income of a foreign company from lease rentals of cruise ships, received from a related company which operates such ships in India. The same are given effect by insertion of section 44BBC and clause (15B) of section 10 in the Income Tax Act, 1961.
