

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 940
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025

CRUISE BHARAT MISSION

940. SHRI ALOK SHARMA:
SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM:
SMT. KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI JASHUBHAI BHILUBHAI RATHVA:
SHRI SHASHANK MANI:
SHRI NABA CHARAN MAJHI:
SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the recent achievement that demonstrate the effectiveness of 'Cruise Bharat Mission' in promoting passenger traffic by cruise;
- (b) the strategies being adopted to intergrate sea, river and island cruise circuits under an integrated national plan;
- (c) the details of the States benefitted from the said Mission;
- (d) the manner in which the Government proposes to assess the long-term impact of the said Mission on employment generation and economic development of coastal region; and
- (e) whether any special framework is being prepared for the North Eastern States including Assam with regard to urban water transport system and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) In FY 2024 – 25, there were 272 cruise calls and 4.92 lakh passengers as compared to increase from 253 cruise calls and 4.7 lakh passengers in FY – 2023-24. Several regulatory reforms have been introduced; such as introduction of Cruise QR Code clearance system for passengers by Immigration, digitized customs procedures for ships by customs (CBIC advisory 26/2024, dated 08.11.2024) and change of advance remittance for lease payment for ships by RBI {RBI Circular No. RBI/2025-26/55 A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 07 dated 13 June 2025}. Puducherry Port has been recently operationalized for cruise services, with *Empress of Cordelia Cruises* making its inaugural call on 04 July 2025.

(c) Cruise ports are located at Mumbai (Maharashtra), Murmugao (Goa), Kochi (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), New Mangalore (Karnataka), and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), with cruise calls also at Puducherry(Union Territory), Lakshadweep (Union Territory), and Sri Vijayapuram (Andaman and Nicobar Islands). Further, as of FY 2024–25, 29 National Waterways (NWs) are operational across 11 states, including 3 NWs exclusively dedicated to cruise movement.

(d) As per the Key Performance Indicators of the Cruise Bharat Mission, the initiative aims to generate approximately 0.4 million jobs.

(e) No special framework is under preparation for urban water transport system. However, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) provides fairway, aids to navigation, terminals for berthing of vessels, pilotage assistance for smooth plying of vessels on NW2 in North Eastern Region (NER).
