

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1141
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2025

CRUISE BHARAT MISSION

1141. SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the effectiveness of the Cruise Bharat Mission in boosting cruise passenger traffic;
- (b) the strategies being employed to integrate sea, river and island cruise circuits under a unified national plan; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government is planning to measure the long- term impact of the Cruise Bharat Mission on employment and the economy of coastal States?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Cruise Bharat Mission (CBM) was launched on September 30, 2024, to provide a framework for inter-ministerial approach for crafting interventions along policy, regulatory, and other aspects governing cruise sector and enable responsible involvement of all regulatory agencies, such as Customs, Immigration, CISF, State Tourism Departments, State Maritime Agencies, District Administrations, and local police. CBM has been effectively coordinating with various agencies to promote Cruise Tourism. Some of the outcomes are as follows:

- (i) Ocean cruise footfall has been recorded as 4.92 lakh passengers with 272 calls in FY 2024–25 as compared to 4.71 lakh passengers with 253 calls in FY 2023–24.
- (ii) River cruise circuits recorded 4.33 lakh passengers in FY 2024–25.
- (iii) Puducherry Port operationalized for cruise services, with *Empress of Cordelia Cruises* making its inaugural call on 4th July 2025. New circuits connecting Vizag-Puducherry-Chennai-Sri Lanka have been operationalized.

- (iv) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) - 3 for Cruise vessels at Indian Ports has been issued by Ministry of Tourism on 19th June 2025.

(b) Development of all segments of Cruise i.e Sea, River and Island has been undertaken;

- (i) Fifteen (15) river cruise circuits operational on 13 National Waterways across 9 states.
- (ii) 9 cruise destinations including six Major Ports (Mumbai, Mormugao, Kochi, New Mangalore, Chennai, and Vishakhapatnam), Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands are operational.
- (iii) MoT has informed that local culture and handicrafts is being showcased to Cruise Passengers at Cruise destinations. In addition, local tourist guides are being provided to visiting cruise passengers.
- (iv) Destination Task Forces have been formed at all 9 cruise destinations and at Gujarat Maritime Board to facilitate coordination between stakeholders to provide seamless cruise experience.

(c) As per a Key Performance Indicator of CBM, the aim is to generate 0.4 million employment by 2029.
