

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 980
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2025

TRANSFORMING INDIA AS GLOBAL MARITIME HUB

980. SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY:

- (a) whether it is true that Chennai is all set to become a cruise hub and the gateway to Malaysia, Thailand, Andaman, Puri, Kolkata, Puducherry and Sri Lanka in the next few years as more ships will connect various destinations, if so, the details thereof alongwith the action plan thereon; and
- (b) whether it is also true that the States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have become key hubs for export-import trade, fishing harbours, seafood processing, shipbuilding and repair, recycling industries, and maritime tourism and international cruise passenger transport and these States will continue to be a key partners and model States in the country's grand mission to transform the nation into global maritime hub, if so, the details thereof alongwith the investments made in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) In 2025-26 (Upto 30th November, 2025), Chennai Port has handled 16 cruise ship calls which include 13 domestic & 3 International Cruise Calls. Cruises have operated on the following circuits also:

- Chennai–Visakhapatnam–Puducherry–Chennai,
- Chennai–Hambantota–Trincomalee–Kankasanturai–Chennai,
- Chennai–Phuket–Langkawi–Kuala Lumpur–Singapore–Kuala Lumpur - Phuket–Langkawi - Chennai.

Cruise Bharat Mission is coordinating with stakeholders to make Chennai as a cruise hub.

(b) Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying under the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) provides financial assistance to State Government, Union Territories and Implementing agencies for construction of fishing harbour, fish landing centres, modernization/ upgradation of existing fishing harbours and maintenance dredging of the existing fishing harbor. 117

fishing harbours and fish landing centres have been approved across coastal states/ UTs under various Central schemes, viz., Blue Revolution, PMMSY and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), including 09 fishing harbour and 07 landing centre projects in Andhra Pradesh and 11 fishing harbour and 26 landing centre projects in Tamil Nadu.

Cruise Terminal are operational at Visakhapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh with passenger footfall recorded as 10,707 and at Chennai Port, Tamil Nadu with footfall recorded as 41,047 in FY 2025-26 (Upto November 2025).
