

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.131
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2024

POTENTIAL OF CRUISE INDUSTRY

131. SHRI. MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P:

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

पत्तन, पोतपरिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to utilise the potential of the cruise industry to grow exponentially; and
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to draft a regulatory framework that actively ensures the achievement of its goals for the cruise industry and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Government has taken steps to incentivise and promote cruise industry for its exponential growth as detailed below:

- (i) For berthing, cruise vessel is given priority over cargo vessel.
- (ii) Rationalised cruise tariff has been introduced.
- a. Port charges are recovered @ \$0.085/GRT (fixed rate) and a nominal passenger head tax of \$ 6 for first 12 hours of stay at berth.
- b. Cruise ships are provided discounts ranging from 10% to 30% based on volume of their calls.
- (iii) Ousting charges have been removed to attract cruise vessels.
- (iv) E-Visa and on-arrival visa facilities have been extended.
- (v) Single e-Landing Card has been introduced which is valid for all ports in cruise itinerary.

(vi) Cabotage has been waived for foreign cruise vessels. This relaxation allows foreign cruise ship to transport Indian nationals from one Indian Port to another Indian Port during its domestic leg.

(vii) In order to promote tourism, conditional IGST exemption has been approved for foreign going vessel when it converts to coastal run, subject to its reconversion to foreign going vessel within six months.

(viii) During Global Maritime India Summit, October, 2023 sessions on 'Embark on a voyage to attract 50 million Cruise Passengers in India by 2047' and a 'Roundtable with Cruise lines' were organized with participation of stakeholders.

(ix) Up-gradation and modernization of Cruise Terminals at New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Mormugao and Visakhapatnam have been completed.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been issued by the Government which is followed by the personnel from the offices of Customs, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Immigration and Port Health organization (PHO). The role of State Government has also been given in the SOP. The Cruise Port Operation is multi-faceted and therefore, many aspects are involved in the entire process. The SOP indicate the role of different authorities on receipt of notification from steamer agents, as detailed below:

(i) Immigration:- The specific procedure for international pax/ crew and domestic pax/crew have been categorically stated.

(ii) Security: - It specifies the role of Central Industrial Security Force(CISF) at the time of embarkation and disembarkation of passengers.

(iii) Customs: - It specifies the process of clearing the vessel by custom officers on receipt of electronic Arrival manifest from Steamer agent.

(iv) Health:-The Port Health Officer grant Pratique and Health clearance after inspection and finding the vessel safe from health angle.
