

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1162  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006  
MARINE TOURISM SHIPPING POLICY  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Yadav Shri Mitrasen

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any Marine Tourism Shipping policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a high powered committee appointed by Shipping in consultation with Ministry of Tourism have submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to submit its report; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to promote Marine Tourism in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): A High Powered Steering Group (HPSG) chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways and co-chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Tourism has been constituted with a view to catalyze the growth and development of Cruise Shipping in India and to formulate a cruise shipping policy. The HPSG is to coordinate with all Ministries/Departments of Government of India as well as State Governments and steer/guide the discussions with a view to formulate the above policy.

(e): The following steps have been taken/being taken to promote Marine Tourism in India:

(i) Cabotage has been relaxed for cruise ships for a period of 5 years from December, 2003.

(ii) Upto 50% rebate has been given in vessel related charges including berth hire, pilotage, etc.

(iii) Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Tuticorin and Chennai Ports are being projected as part of the Indian Cruise Circuit.

(iv) Systems and procedures are being streamlined to facilitate seamless travel by the tourists.

(v) Cruise operator M/s. Ocean Cruises India Pvt. Ltd. has been permitted to operate cruises from Goa to Lakshadweep via Cochin. Similarly Cruise operator M/s Star Cruises has been permitted to operate cruises from Mumbai to Lakshadweep (Kadmat Island), and Mumbai to Goa.