

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5336
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2010
CRUISE SHIPPING
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a policy on cruise shipping;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the policy;
- (c) the benefits to the country through the implementation of the policy;
- (d) if not, the timeframe for the formulation of the policy and its implementation thereafter;
- (e) whether the Government has also signed a trilateral agreement with Brazil and South Africa relating to Maritime Transport Project; and
- (f) if so, the details of the agreement and the benefits to the country thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Government of India has approved the Cruise Shipping Policy in June, 2008. Cruise Shipping would be a path breaking development in India's effort to carve a prominent space in world tourism and it would showcase India as a major source and destination of world tourism. With the implementation of this policy, the growth in diverse sectors would spill out and it would earn precious foreign exchange for the country. It will not only generate enormous employment opportunities but would also promote people to people contact, which will enhance India's friendly ties with foreign countries. Various features of cruise shipping policy include conducive fiscal regime, development of facilities at Ports and connectivity through rail, road transport, air and metro, quick completion of immigration formalities, hassle free custom clearance and proper waste disposal system ensuring cleaner ocean.

The Cruise Shipping Policy has been circulated to all the concerned Ministries, stakeholders, Major Port Trusts and Maritime Boards.

(d): The Government has already approved the cruise shipping policy for implementation in the country.

(e) & (f): Yes, Madam. A Trilateral Agreement between India, Brazil and South Africa concerning Merchant Shipping and other Maritime Transport related matters was signed on 13.09.2006. The agreement is broadly applicable in areas of development and cooperation in the maritime sector, treatment to be accorded to vessels at ports, environmental protection, recognition of documents, domestic law, rights of transit and stay of crew members, special obligation with respect to calling vessels, vessels in distress, maritime liaison committee, consultations and settlement of disputes and payment of charges and dues. India, Brazil and South Africa are amongst the fastest growing economies in their respective continents. Strengthening of relations in merchant shipping and maritime transport matters will contribute to the growth of economic and commercial relations between the three countries.