

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4163  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009  
CRUISE SHIPPING POLICY  
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a Cruise Shipping Policy/Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the detailed report on Cruise Shipping in India at present in comparison with rest of the world; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost Cruise Shipping in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government has already approved Cruise Shipping Policy this year. Cruise Shipping would be a path breaking development in India's effort to carve a prominent space in world tourism showcasing 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 earn precious foreign exchange for the country besides generating enormous employment opportunities and simultaneously promoting people to people contact which will result in enhancing India's friendly ties with foreign countries. Various features of cruise shipping policy include various measures conducive to growth of tourism like 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.

(c): Cruise Shipping has tremendous potential in India with its large coastline, rich cultural heritage, a number of scenic spots and variety of flora and fauna in proximity to ports. If cruising is made more affordable and the opportunity is made available in India, the vast Indian "middle class" could be a huge market. World's most favourite cruising areas, i.e. Carribean, Mediterranean, Alaska and the latest additions in South East Asia have saturated for quite some time. In this backdrop, there is tremendous opportunity for Indian Ocean region which can be explored for cruise shipping.

(d): In order to boost tourism including cruise tourism, the Government in the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/UT Administration/ Central Govt agencies under the following schemes:

- (i) Product/infrastructure development for destinations and circuits
- (ii) Large revenue generating project
- (iii) Assistance to central agencies for infrastructure development

In addition, the following steps have also been taken to boost cruise shipping in India.

- (i) Relaxation in Cabotage for cruise ships for a period of 10 years.
- (ii) Upto 50% rebate given in the vessel related charges including berth hire, pilotage etc.
- (iii) Development of Marina for Yachts and small boats at all important coastal tourist destinations like Goa, Cochin, Chennai etc based on BOT/PPP model wherever possible.

The cruise shipping is also being promoted through brochures, CDs and distribution of publicity material.