

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3884  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012  
POLICY ON BERTHING FOR CRUISE SHIPS  
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a task force to suggest ways to reduce berthing charges and give other facilities to cruise ships from foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details of this policy and the benefits expected therein;
- (c) whether specific ports will be dedicated to cruise ships;
- (d) the extent to which such reforms would also help the other minor sector of shipping like coastal shipping and fisheries; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to have a comprehensive reform of the entire shipping sector in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. However, the Government has formulated a cruise Shipping Policy which, inter-alia, provides for an exemption from cabotage by way of allowing foreign vessels carrying passengers to call at more than one Indian Port without obtaining any license from the Directorate General of Shipping. The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for project proposals relating to cruise tourism also under their scheme of Product/Infrastructure development for destinations and circuits.

(c): The Government has identified the ports of Chennai, Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Tuticorin and Mumbai for development of cruise tourism.

(d): The policy initiatives indicated above are aimed at promoting cruise tourism which may not have a direct bearing on coastal shipping and fisheries sector in the country.

(e): Government has been taking various steps from time to time for the growth of Indian Shipping sector which, inter-alia, includes introduction of tonnage tax scheme and policy of cargo support to Indian flag ships in respect of Government owned/controlled cargoes.