

Development of cruise tourism

1751. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to develop cruise tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken and the details of expenditure, if incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism has recognized Cruise Tourism, as a "Niche" tourism product in order to promote India as a 365 days' destination and attract tourists with specific interest. The steps taken to promote Cruise Tourism include developing appropriate infrastructure at ports for handling cruise vessels and facilitating ease of movement of passengers. Further Ministry of Shipping has brought out a Vision Document with a view to develop India as a Cruise shipping destination.

The Vision Document envisaged to develop supporting infrastructure for cruise tourism at ports, give special focus on developing the domestic cruise industry through policy supports, incentives and port infrastructure development. Separately, Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Tourism has jointly appointed a consultant for 'Preparation of Action Plan for Development of Cruise Tourism in India.

The five major ports of the country namely, Mumbai Port, Mormugao Port, New Mangalore Port, Cochin Port and Chennai Port have been developed to attract cruise ships with dedicated terminals and other related infrastructure for berthing of cruise vessels and embarking and disembarking of cruise passengers.

In the year 2018-19, a total of 157 Cruise ships carrying 2,01,872 passengers visited India at Five major ports namely Mumbai Port, Mormugao Port, New Mangalore Port, Cochin Port and Chennai Port.

Details of projects sanctioned under 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development Scheme and Swadesh Darshan Scheme by Ministry of Tourism are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

Steps being taken by Ministry of Shipping, Govt of India to develop Cruise Tourism and details of expenditure are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of projects sanctioned under various schemes of ministry of tourism

(₹ in crore)				
Sl. No.	Sanction year	Name of Projects / State	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5
Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development Scheme				
1.	2016-17	Central Financial Assistance for upgrading of Berths & Backup area of Ernakulam Wharf / Kerala	21.41	17.12
2.	2016-17	Central Financial Assistance to Mumbai Port Trust for Development of Kanoji Angre Lighthouse as a tourist Destination/ Maharashtra	15.00	15.00
3.	2017-18	Up-gradation/modernization to International Cruise terminal at Indira Dock, Mumbai/ Maharashtra	12.50	12.50
4.	2018-19	Improvement of immigration facility and deepening of existing cruise berth at Mormugao/ Goa	13.16	6.58
5.	2018-19	Construction of Cruise-cum-Coastal Cargo Terminal at Channel berth area in Outer Harbour of Visakhapatnam Port/ Andhra Pradesh	38.50	19.25

Written Answers to

[3 December, 2019]

Unstarred Questions

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1	2	3	4	5
Swadesh Darshan Scheme				
1.	2016-17	Development of Tezpur - Majuli - Sibsagar / Assam	98.35	45.29
2.	2016-17	Integrated Development of Tourism Infrastructure projects in the State of Jammu and Kashmir under Himalayan Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme / Jammu and Kashmir	82.97	60.47
3.	2016-17	Development of Gopalpur, Barkul, Satapada and Tampara / Odisha	70.82	37.61
4.	2017-18	Development of Gandhisagar Dam-Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam-Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam-Bheda Ghat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River / Madhya Pradesh	99.62	79.70
5.	2018-19	Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project / Kerala	80.37	0.0

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Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Statement-II

Steps being taken by Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India to develop Cruise Tourism and details of expenditure

- (i) Roadmap drawn for the development of cruise Shipping in India
- (ii) Cabotage waived for foreign cruise vessels
- (iii) Simplified standard operating procedure has been put in place for handling cruise ships across the country. Wherein, the role and procedure of each regulatory authority has been clearly spelt out
- (iv) New initiatives like e-visa and e-landing card has been introduced by immigration department for the easy facilitation of cruise passengers
- (v) Up-gradation and modernization of cruise terminals
- (vi) Construction of new cruise terminals taken up
- (vii) Guaranteed berths to cruise ships
- (viii) Efforts are being made for addressing GST and customs duty issues of cruise stakeholders
- (ix) Volume discount in port tariff upto 20% for domestic cruise ship at Mumbai and upto 50% at other major ports.
- (x) Workshops/seminars held in Mumbai for cruise promotion
- (xi) Training / sensitization sessions held
- (xii) Rationalised Vessel Related Charges of 0.35USD per GT for 12 hours of stay for cruise ships.
- (xiii) Ousting charges removed.
- (xiv) Biometrics exempted of e-visa for 3 years for ease of travel.

Infrastructure Development at Major Ports for Cruise Shipping

- (i) At Visakhapatnam Port Trust, an international Cruise Terminal is being developed as per the Tourism Policy of Gol at an estimated cost of ₹77

crores with 50% support from the Ministry of Tourism under the scheme "Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development". Design consultancy for berth structure is entrusted to IIT Chennai at a cost of ₹32 lakhs and architectural consultancy for terminal building is awarded to M/s. Creative Group, Delhi at a cost of ₹28 lakhs.

- (ii) Cochin port is constructing a new international cruise terminal at a cost of ₹25.72 crores under the aid of Ministry of Tourism and is expected to be commissioned in February, 2020.
- (iii) Mormugao Port Trust had constructed International Cruise Terminal Building in 2017 and deepened Cruise Berth from -9m to -12m for berthing of bigger size vessels upto 400m Length of Approach (LOA) with an expenditure of about ₹ 20.83crores.
- (iv) New Mangalore Port Trust constructed a cruise lounge in 2007-08 and incurred an expenditure of ₹ 2.52 crores. Various works in connection with visit of cruise passenger ships and renovation of cruise lounge are taken with an expenditure of ₹ 40 lakhs approx.
- (v) A cruise terminal was set up in Chennai Port Trust for domestic and international Cruise service with expenditure of 1724.66 lakhs granted by M/o Tourism. It was inaugurated on 12.10.2018.
- (vi) Mumbai Port Trust has taken up various projects *i.e.* up-gradation of existing cruise terminal at Ballard Pier Extension (BPX), Indira Dock, construction of Ro-Ro pax facility, construction of domestic cruise terminal, traffic evacuation plan for the domestic cruise, marina and Ro-Ro pax terminal at Prince's Dock (phase-II), traffic evacuation plan (facility for passengers), including construction of boundary wall in prince's dock and modernization of ferry terminal at a combined cost of about ₹ 92.45 crores.

Development of tourist spots in Assam

1752. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of tourist spots in Assam, location-wise;