

scheme guidelines financial assistance as subsidy @ 30%, 50% and 75% of the cost of cultivation is provided to farmers. The financial assistance is provided through the identified implementing agency of concerned State (generally State Horticulture and State Agriculture Departments) and based on the State Annual Action Plan (SAAP) submitted by concerned State.

(c) and (d) Under NAM Scheme, presently, 140 species of medicinal plants are prioritized for cultivation across the country and to promote farming of these medicinal plants suitable to particular area, as per scheme guidelines, the fund is shared in the ratio of 60:40 between Central and State Government whereas it is in the ratio of 90:10 in North Eastern and Hilly States and financed 100% by Central Government in Union Territories (UTs).

#### **Development of cruise tourism**

2402. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1751 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 2019 and state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any time-frame for implementation of cruise tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (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.

A Task Force on cruise tourism has been formed jointly by the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Shipping with representatives of all major ports and stakeholders for coordinated efforts to create an enabling ecosystem for the development of cruise tourism in India. The Task Force meets regularly and the last meeting of the Task Force was held on 17.05.2019.

A national roadmap for development of cruise tourism has been made through an internationally renowned consultant M/s Bermello Ajamil and Partners jointly engaged by Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Shipping which has projected a possibility of phenomenal growth over 25 years in number of passengers from 0.2 million in 2016 to 4 million in 2041, increase in ship calls from 166 to 955 and passengers per ship from 1200 to 4100, employment potential of 2,50,000 persons from the existing 5000 persons and economic potential ₹ 35,500 crores compared to ₹ 712 crores in 2016.

#### **Amendment of CA Act**

2403. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to amend the Chartered Accountants (CA) Act to build disciplinary mechanisms for removing possible conflicts of interests between audit firms and the companies they audit;

(b) whether Government is also looking at ways to address the gaps in the law with respect to network entities of which audit firms are part;

(c) whether the Serious Frauds Investigation Office (SFIO) has questioned the role of auditors particularly BSR Co. and Deloitte Haskins and Sells in the recent scams; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) on 10.04.2017 under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Meenakshi Datta Ghosh, to examine the existing provisions in the Acts, Rules and Regulations for dealing with the cases of misconduct in the three Professional