GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.451
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

DEVELOPMENT OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS AS INTERNATIONAL TOURIST DESTINATION

451 SHRI A. D. SINGH:

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

(a) whether Andaman and Nicobar Islands have huge potential to be developed as an international tourist destination;
(b) if so, the scope of its development;
(c) the domestic and international tourist inflow in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years; and
(d) the efforts made by Government to enhance air and sea connectivity and other infrastructure in Andaman and Nicobar to make it a popular tourist destination?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Yes, Andaman and Nicobar Islands have significant potential to be developed as an international tourist destination.

The Ministry of Tourism under its Swadesh Darshan scheme had sanctioned the Coastal Circuit project 'Development of Long Island-Ross Smith Island- Neil Island-Havelock Island- Baratang Island-Port Blair' in the year 2016-17 for an amount of Rs.27.57 Crore and this project is physically complete.

For a better and smooth travel experience of tourists to the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Ministry of Tourism regularly coordinates with Ministry of Home Affairs and as a result, Ministry of Home Affairs has relaxed the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) for a further period of 5 Years i.e. till 31.12.2027 for the identified Islands in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, subject to certain conditions which has been notified.

To harness the potential of Cruise Tourism in the country, a Task Force has been constituted with Secretary (Tourism) as the Chairman and Secretary (Shipping) as the Co-chairman. The Task Force consists of representatives from the ports, Ministries of Health, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Customs, CISF, Coastal States, etc.

"Ministry of Civil Aviation has provided an enabling environment for growth of civil aviation sector. Port Blair has been included in the list of 18 tourist gateways destinations from where the Indian carriers and carriers of 5 SAARC countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and 10 ASEAN countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand,

Brunei, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines and Laos) can operate unlimited frequencies subject to availability of slots at the airport. However, the start of international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of the airlines on the basis of the economic viability of the route and other associated factors."

The details of domestic and international tourist inflow in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Domestic	Foreign
2021	126238	1690
2022	235061	4461
2023	323619	9025
Source: A&N Tourism Department		

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