

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF : SHIPPING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1079
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.07.2019
Cruise service on Ganga river in Varanasi

1079. Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has recently introduced cruise service on Ganga river in Varanasi and other river beds and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has engaged public and private sector in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of river-circuits identified by Government along with their promotion proposals;
- (d) the present status of construction of new Cruise Terminals in the country at various ports; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised for this purpose?

Answer

(a) Various private companies are operating cruise vessels on National Waterway – 1 (Ganga), National Waterway – 2 (Brahmaputra) and waterways in Kerala. M/s Nordic Cruise Line Service Pvt. Ltd. has launched cruise service in Varanasi in August, 2018.

(b) &(c) River cruise/tourism has been a regular feature on National Waterways-1 & 2 since last few years and Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) engages with private companies for development of river cruise tourism. Various companies namely M/s Heritage River Cruises India Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Vivada Inland Waterways, M/s. Assam Bengal navigation Co. and M/s. Nordic Cruise Line Service Pvt. Ltd. operate their cruise vessels on NW-1 and Sundarbans waterways. M/s. Assam Bengal Navigation Company, M/s Far Horizon Co. are operating cruise vessels on NW-2. River tourism on NW-3 is already popular among domestic and foreign tourists. During the winter months of October-March, several tourist vessels carrying foreign and domestic tourists are regularly plying between Kaziranga and Dhubri in Assam; Patna/Varanasi, Kolkata and Sunderbans on Ganga; and throughout the year in the backwaters of Kerala.

Under the MoU and SOP on Passenger and Cruise Service on the Coastal and Protocol routes signed between India and Bangladesh, private cruise operators of both the countries commenced cruise services in March – April, 2019.

(d) &(e) The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects for the development of Cruise Terminals and related infrastructure at the major ports as part of its schemes of assistance to central agencies. Details of the project status, amount sanctioned and released is at Annex.

Annex

PROJECTS SANCTIONED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE TERMINAL/ UPGRADATION OF BERTH UNDER THE SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AGENCIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. NO.	STATE / YEAR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	SANCTIONED AMOUNT	AMOUNT RELEASED	STATUS
1	Tamil Nadu	2012-2013 Cruise Terminal Building at Chennai Port, Chennai	1724.66	1724.66	Completed
2	Kerala	2012-2013 Development of dedicated Cruise Berthing facilities at Cochin Port	2243.32	2138.92	Completed
3	Goa	2014-2015 Cruise Terminal building at Mormugao Port, Goa	879.04	767.187	Completed
4	Kerala	2016-2017 Upgradation of Berths and backup area of Ernakulam Wharf, Kerala	2141.00	1070.50	Work under progress
5	Kerala	2016-2017 Development of Walkway / Promenade on Willingdon Island, Cochin	901.00	720.30	Work in progress
6	Maharashtra	2016-2017 Development of KanojiAngre Lighthouse to Mumbai Port Trust	1500.00	1500.00	Completed
7	Maharashtra	2017-2018 Upgradation / modernization at International Cruise Terminal at Indira Dock, Mumbai	1250.00	1000.00	Work in progress
8	Goa	2018-2019 Improvement of Immigration facility and deepening of existing Cruise Berth at Mormugao Port, Goa	1316.40	658.20	Work in progress
9	Kerala	2018-2019 Developing infrastructure at Cochin Port Cruise Terminals	120.79	60.39	Work in progress
10	Kerala	2018-2019 Creation of additional Tourism Facility at the Cochin Port Trust	466.47	233.23	Work in progress
11	Andhra Pradesh	2018-2019 Construction of Cruise-cum-Coastal Cargo Terminal at Channel Berth area in outer harbour of Visakhapatnam Port	3850.00	1925.00	Work in progress

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