

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2869
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN UNINHABITED ISLANDS
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Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any scope to develop tourism in Uninhabited islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) whether the Government have taken any step to develop these islands;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any consultations has been held with Ministry of Environment and Forests and Home Affairs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the response of Ministries thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Sir, UNDP/WTO submitted a study report to the Department of Tourism, Government of India in 1996 which has identified potential areas for development of tourism. The report includes uninhabited Islands such as Cinque Islands, North passage Island and Ross & Smith Islands (Ross island is uninhabited and Smith inhabited).
- (c) to (f): The Andaman Administration has approached the Ministry of Home Affairs for opening Cinque Islands, Ross Island and Barren Islands as well as few inhabited islands for day and night halt of foreigners. Clearance has also been sought from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for development of Eco- friendly tourist resort on 22.2 hectare land at Merk Bay, North Passage Islands. Ministry of Environment and Forest has desired that an Environmental Impact Assessment study and cost benefit analysis be carried out.