

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1180
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006
FDI IN SHIPPING SECTOR
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to open up the cruise shipping sector for the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as part of its efforts to promote tourism;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Merchant Shipping Act to simplify registration procedures for foreign cruise companies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the High Power Steering Group had been set up to finalise the policy in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken to implement its suggestions; and
- (f) the extent to which the Government has agreed for FDI in the shipping sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is already permitted in Shipping.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) A High Power Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister(Shipping, Road Transport and Highways) with the Union Minister of Tourism & Culture as Co-Chairperson has been set up to formulate a cruise shipping policy with the objective to make India a major cruise tourism destination for attracting the right segment of foreign cruise tourists and for popularizing cruise shipping with Indian tourists. Details are being worked out to finalize a policy in this regard. However, no time frame can be given.
- (f) 100% FDI is already permitted in shipping sector.