

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:482

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2007

CRUISE TOURISM

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to develop cruise tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether areas have been identified for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has got the policy cleared from all angles; and
- (f) if so, the time by which it will take off?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): Ministry of Tourism in partnership with Ministry of Shipping has been promoting cruise tourism in the country both for domestic and overseas tourists. A high Power Steering Group under the chairmanship of Minister of Shipping with Minister of Tourism & Culture as co-chairperson has been set up to formulate cruise shipping policy. The Steering Group has recommended policy measures for issues related to smooth immigration and custom clearance, upgradation of ports infrastructural facilities, connectivity to ports, rationalisation of taxation and cabotage relaxation to promote and develop cruise tourism products. Ministry of Tourism has already given clearance for operation of the following cruise services.

- (a) M/s Star Cruises for operating its cruise from Mumbai & Goa to Lakshadweep.
- (b) M/s Indian Ocean Cruise Ltd. for operating its cruises from Goa to Lakshadweep via Mangalore, Cochin and Trivandrum.