

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1115**  
ANSWERED ON 20.09.2020

**DEVELOPMENT OF RIVER TOURISM IN ODISHA**

1115. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) the action taken by Government to develop river tourism in the country; and
- (b) the specific plan for Odisha?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): Development and promotion of tourism, including river tourism, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for projects identified by them under their jurisdiction, subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, availability of funds and submission of certificate of utilisation of funds released earlier.

For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has introduced the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD), the 'Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' schemes. These schemes includes, *inter-alia*, development of tourist spots on river banks in the identified circuits/ pilgrimage destinations.

Ministry of Shipping has informed that the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has awarded a study for preparation of an Action Plan & detailed Road Map for development of River Cruise Tourism in India.

(b): Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has sanctioned an amount of Rs.50.00 crore in 2014-15 for Infrastructure Development in Odisha at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham-Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Deuli under PRASHAD Scheme.

The Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha, has informed that they have undertaken following major steps to develop and promote River Tourism in Odisha:-

- i. Tied up with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), who has completed technical studies and has proposed following routes based on technical feasibility for operations of river cruises:
  - a. National Waterway 5 (Cruise route - Paradeep – Hukitola bay – Rajnagar – Managalajodi – Bhitarkanika – Chandbali) covering approx. – 95kms
  - b. National Waterway 64 (Cruise route - Badmul-Muduligadia-Tikarpada-Daruha) – 30kms
  - c. National Waterway 14 (Cruise route - Chandbali-Bhitarkanika-Aradi)
  - d. Other route - Jobra-Dhabaleswar
- ii. State Govt with support from IWAI, planning for operationalising river cruises, interventions like development/ upgradation of shore infrastructure and support facilities like jetties (permanent/ floating), storage facilities, visitor amenities, and charting of routes and their maintenance, etc.
- iii. Private sector cruise operators are being encouraged to operate their cruises for which Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha, will offer necessary facilitation support.
- iv. Single Window approval has been accorded for water sports in Mahanadi river and Hirakud dam.
- v. Entered into technical collaboration with Kerala State Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) – a Govt. of Kerala PSU experienced in the area of planning and development of river recreation.

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