



Date: 24.03.2023

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE**

PRESS RELEASE

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture headed by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy, M.P., Rajya Sabha, presented/ laid its following Reports, in both the Houses of Parliament **today i.e., the 24th March, 2023:-**

- (i) Three Hundred Forty Fourth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee contained in its Three Hundred Thirteenth Report on the subject 'Promotion of Indian Tourism in Overseas Markets – Role of Overseas Tourist Offices and Indian Embassies';
- (ii) Three Hundred Forty Fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee contained in its Three Hundred Nineteenth Report on the subject 'Progress made in implementation of Sagarmala Projects';
- (iii) Three Hundred Forty Sixth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in its Three Hundred Twenty Third Report on the subject 'Commission of Railway Safety'; and
- (iv) Three Hundred Forty Seventh Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in its Three Hundred Twenty Sixth Report on the subject 'Role of Indian Missions Globally for the growth of Tourism in India'.

2. The Reports were adopted by the Committee on 23rd March, 2023. The Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in these Reports are enclosed.

The full Reports are available on the website of Rajya Sabha <http://rajyasabha.nic.in>→Committees→Department related RS→Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture→Reports

Three Hundred Forty Fourth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee contained in its Three Hundred Thirteenth Report on the subject ‘Promotion of Indian Tourism in Overseas Markets – Role of Overseas Tourist Offices and Indian Embassies’

RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS - AT A GLANCE
CHAPTER-III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE MINISTRY HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee would like to know the details of the integrated marketing and promotional strategy employed by the Ministry to position India as a preferred tourism destination and the targets set and achieved by the Ministry to increase International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) and share of India in the global tourist market. The Committee believes that empowering tourism industry stakeholders results in higher tourist satisfaction and desires to know whether the said strategy encourages participation and empowerment of various Indian travel agencies and local tourism stakeholders, cooperative groups and companies, in identifying barriers and enablers for destination tourism promotion.

(Para 1.3)

The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the detailed benchmarking of global tourism marketing strategies and National Tourism Boards of the top 10 source markets carried out by the Ministry of Tourism.

(Para 1.4)

The Committee notes that the Ministry’s reply is not in line with the recommendation of the Committee. The Committee reiterates that higher tax on inbound tourism raises tax revenue but can have a detrimental impact on the economy, foreign tourist arrivals and tourism competitiveness of a country. Evaluating/reviewing the effect of tourism tax on Indian destinations that are entirely tourism dependent is also essential to sustain the local communities and various tourism agencies. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry as regards the holistic review/evaluation of the tax regime applicable on the Indian travel and tourism sector.

(Para 2.2)

The Committee notes that the Ministry has not given any details of proposed surveys to be conducted in important source markets for India. The Committee observes that as per the information on the Website of the Ministry, the Market Research Division of the Ministry had last conducted surveys in the Overseas Markets of Japan, Germany,

Russia, South Africa, South Korea and Turkey in August, 2016. The Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) which helps in assessing the size and contribution of tourism to the economy using data from domestic and international tourism surveys was also last conducted in 2015-16. The COVID pandemic had a pervasive effect on tourist behavior, impacting travel patterns, destination preferences, duration of trips etc. The Committee observes that no significant post-COVID surveys appear to have been conducted by the Ministry to assess the changes in travel behaviour and attitudes, the Indian tourism industry's post COVID preparedness and the perceptions of foreign tourists about India as a Safe Travel Destination in the post pandemic era. The Committee desires to know about the action taken by the Ministry regarding periodic conduct of such surveys.

(Para 3.3)

The Committee would like to be informed about the impact of the appointment of Tourism Officers in 20 Indian Missions abroad, the action taken by the Ministry on each of the country-specific strategies and suggestions submitted by the Tourism officers and the outcomes of the same.

(Para 4.4)

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Three Hundred Forty Fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee contained in its Three Hundred Nineteenth Report on the subject ‘Progress made in implementation of Sagarmala Projects’

RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS - AT A GLANCE

CHAPTER-III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE MINISTRY HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes that out of the total 240 projects under “Sagarmala”, 84 projects worth Rs. 29,666 crores have been completed and 54 projects worth Rs. 37,295 crores are under implementation. The Committee would like to know about the status of the remaining 102 projects, the costs involved in these projects and their deadlines for completion.

(Para 1.5)

The Committee notes that the ‘Sagarmala Programme’ has been launched with the objective of port-led development and to enhance the performance of the country’s logistics sector. Only two port modernization projects under State Governments have been completed so far out of the total 45 projects. Also, out of the 173 projects being implemented at the Major ports, 91 projects are yet to be implemented. The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for delay in implementation of these projects. The Ministry has stated that regular consultations are being done with all stakeholders through periodic MSDC meetings. However, the Committee notes that the last meeting of the MSDC has been held in June, 2021. The Committee would like to know the frequency of the MSDC meetings in a financial year. The Committee would also like to know the number and details of duplicate/inactive/deferred projects which were dropped in the last financial year under the Port Modernization programme.

(Para 1.6)

The Committee notes that the Ministry in its reply has not furnished any information regarding the projects under various pillars of the Sagarmala Programme witnessing time overrun and cost escalation nor has it provided any information or status on the progress of the Vadhavan port. The Ministry should provide the Action Taken with respect to the Vadhavan port and the details of Sagarmala projects witnessing time overrun or cost escalation as of 2023-24.

(Para 1.7)

The Committee appreciates the efforts of the Ministry in setting up the target of providing more than 18m draft at various Mega Ports, namely, Vadhavan-JNPT Cluster, Paradip, Deendayal, and Kamarajar, making it possible for these ports to handle bigger cargo in near future. The Committee would like to be apprised of the deadlines set by the Ministry to complete the work related to deepening of draft at these ports under the MIV, 2030.

(Para 2.6)

The Committee may be informed of the reasons for the low utilization of funds under the Port Modernization Head.

(Para 2.7)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry should take measures and devise comprehensive plans for the Indian shipbuilding, ship-repair and IWT sectors to enable them to avail various tax-concessions/benefits and cheaper long-term capital etc. and also contribute towards furthering the objective of the “Make in India” initiative.

(Para 3.5)

The Committee would like to know whether the Ministry has received any proposals from any Major Ports in the country regarding development of Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs) and the status of all the MMLPs which are proposed to be developed or are under construction in the country. The Committee also desires to know the details and progress status of all the port-rail and port-road projects connectivity projects under the PM Gati Shakti Master Plan. The Committee would also like to know if the Ministry has addressed the issues of point to point connectivity under the Sagarmala programme.

(Para 4.2)

The Ministry has not given any information regarding the last mile connectivity issues at Hazira. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that last mile connectivity may be provided to the RORO fairway between Ghogha and Hazira.

(Para 5.2)

The Committee notes that RO-RO vessels and ferries contribute to shortening of shipment routes and lower transportation costs whereas road transport takes longer time, distance and higher costs. The Committee observes that only a meager 13% of the total RO-RO and Ro-Pax projects have been completed so far and recommends that the Ministry may try to speed up the implementation process of the remaining 64 RO-RO and Ro-Pax ferry projects.

(Para 6.2)

The Committee would like to be apprised of the number of Major Ports where the possibility for developing fourteen Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) has been explored under the “Sagarmala” Programme and the budgetary/fund allocation made to it in the B.E. 2023-24, if any, alongwith the proposed demand of the Ministry.