

From Womb to Tomb – and sometimes beyond NATIONAL UNION OF SEAFARERS OF INDIA

Affiliated to International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)

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Circular no. 18 of 2020

13th May, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Sub: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India issues orders finally to facilitate the return of our seafarers back to India

We have great pleasure to share with you the order from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India dated 13th May, 2020 which will now facilitate the return of our seafarers back to India. The order which was in reference to DO letter No. ST-16011/13/2020-MA dated 8th May from Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Shipping will now require the companies to register the seafarers with the Ministry of External Affairs Web portal meant for stranded Indians in need of repatriation. NUSI is assisting the companies to expedite the process.

You are all aware that NUSI alongwith the other stakeholders had taken up the matter with the Government of India right upto Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister. It is a big relief to the seafarers and their family members.

Our <u>next important</u> step is to ensure that all ranks of our unemployed seafarers awaiting employment on merchant ships and cruise ships get employed urgently as they have waited for long time due to CORONA pandemic.

We thank the Prime Minister Office for direction and particularly Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, the Office of the Ministry of Shipping and the Directorate General of Shipping.

More details shall be provided on NUSI "KAAM KI BAAT" on Saturday, 16th May, 2020 at 1200 hrs on NUSI Facebook live. At this moment just rejoice and come back home soon to your families.

Yours faithfully,

(Abdulgani Y. Serang)

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General Secretary -cum-Treasurer

Executive Board Member - ITF

Vice Chair, ITF Seafarers Section - Asia Pacific Region

Vice Chair, ITF Asia Pacific Region

Most Immediate

No. 25022/08/2020-Imm

Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs Foreigners Division (Immigration Section)

Hall No. 18, Open Gallery, Second Floor, National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi-110001, Dated: 13/05/2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: <u>Permission for repatriation of Indian crew/seafarer employed</u> on cruise ships and currently stranded around the world – proposal of Ministry of Shipping reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to DO letter No.ST-16011/13/2020-MA, dated 8th May, 2020 and its enclosures received from Hon'ble Minister of State Shipping, on the above mentioned subject (copies enclosed).

2. The matter has been considered. It is requested that Ministry of Shipping may ensure that all these 7000-odd Indian seafarers/Indian crew members are duly registered on the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Web Portal meant for such stranded Indians in need of repatriation. The nearest Indian Mission may put them in the appropriate repatriation flight as provided in the MHA SOP dated 5th May, 2020. The Competent Authority in the MEA is also requested to consider the matter so that the

aforementioned SOP is followed in letter and spirit especially regarding post landing screening and quarantine facilities in coordination with the State Governments concerned.

3. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Shamim Ahmad)

Under Secretary(Immigration)
Tele No.-011-23077502

To

1. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary(Health), M/o Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. Shri Sanjay Bandopadhyay, Addl. Secretary(Shipping), M/o Shipping, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi.

3. Shri Dammu Ravi, Addl. Secretary, MEA, New Delhi.

4. Shri Vikram Doraiswami, Addl. Secretary, MEA, New Delhi.

5. Shri Amitabh Kumar, DG Shipping, New Delhi.

6. Ms Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, M/o Civil Aviation, New Delhi.