



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

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

NUSI Bhavan, 4, Goa Street, Ballard Estate, Mumbai - 400 001.
E-mail : nusi@nusi.org.in • Website : www.nusi.org.in

Phone : +91-22-2261 8368 / 2261 8369
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Circular No.20 of 2020

15th August, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the NUSI Executive Committee, Office Bearers, Branch Representatives, Staff and Seafarers and my own, I wish you all a very Happy 74th Independence Day.

NUSI will continue to strive hard for the benefit of the Indian shipping fraternity in general and for our seafarers and their families in particular. Together we will achieve more.

Enclosed is the copy of the letter which NUSI has written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the long pending welfare measures for all ranks of merchant navy seafarers serving on cargo or cruise ships of Indian and foreign flags regarding:-

- 1) Pension Annuity
- 2) Gratuity
- 3) Priority in travel
- 4) Voting Rights during elections
- 5) We also want provident fund for all ranks of merchant navy seafarers serving on cargo or cruise ships of Indian and foreign flag ships. At present only ratings and petty officers are getting Provident Fund on both Indian and foreign flag ships on NUSI agreements.

So send this petition without wasting any time and with your details in support at the earliest to nusi@nusi.org.in to make our demand more stronger. It is in your interest and that of your family. Only when we get the initial 10,000 petitions, we will take it further. NUSI is there to take up the matter, but you also need to take it seriously. Together we will achieve our MISSION.

With warm regards,

(Abdulgani Y. Serang)
General Secretary -cum-Treasurer
Executive Board Member – ITF
Vice Chair, ITF Seafarers Section – Asia Pacific Region
Vice Chair, ITF Asia Pacific Region



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GS/65/14/2020

15th August, 2020

Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
Prime Ministers' Office,
New Delhi- 110 001.

Respected Sir,

Sub:

Happy Independence Day 15th August, 2020

**Long pending welfare measures for
all ranks of merchant navy seafarers
serving on Indian and foreign flag ships**

On behalf of National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), proudly representing the merchant navy seafarers on cargo and cruise ships, let me wish you **Sir** a very Happy Independence Day. Despite many challenges, the Government of India, **under your astute leadership**, is making great progress which we are all proud of. Merchant navy seafarers are also very pleased when you specifically mentioned them in your address during the CORONA crisis and Skill enhancement initiatives.

The Corona Pandemic has **locked down** the lands and the skies of the entire world. Everything is at a standstill. But the **waters** of the world are alive and full of activity. The seas are busy with thousands of ships plying across the oceans loaded with cargo to keep our world moving. All this is possible only because of the hard work of the **brave seafarers**, the fearless working men and women on cargo and cruise ships, who challenge the storms and rough weathers on a daily basis to keep the world alive for which they are rightly called the **“Second line of Defence”** as they also assist the nation during national calamities and also at times of wars and aggressions.

On behalf of the Indian seafarers, National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) is putting forward proposals in respect of four welfare initiatives for the benefit of **all ranks of seafarers** serving on Indian and foreign flagships and their family members which has absolutely **no cost implications to the exchequer**:



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1) To provide “PENSION ANNUITY” :

Because of NUSI agreements, the Seamen's Provident Fund office already has substantial funds to start pension annuity for seafarers. The **Contributory Annuity Fund Scheme (CAFS)** is still under discussion for nearly two decades. It cannot proceed as the Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966 (SPF Act, 1966) needs to be amended. The Government of India **just needs** to amend the Act urgently and the pension annuity can start for all ranks of seafarers.

2) To provide “GRATUITY” :

Due to NUSI agitation in 1966, the seafarers already have statutory Provident Fund scheme. When the bill of the SPF Act, 1966 was placed in Hon'ble Houses of Parliament, it was mentioned that gratuity for seafarers has been brought into force from 1st June, 1964 though **no formal legislation** was enacted. While due diligence is taken in the collective bargaining process, not all seafarers get gratuity. Hence what did not happen in 1964 as a formal legislation should be enacted for **gratuity** for all ranks of seafarers.

3) To provide “PRIORITY” in all modes of travel for seafarers:

NUSI had been consistently demanding, without success, travel **QUOTA** for seafarers (NAVIK) on the lines of QUOTA for Defence personnel (SAINIK). Instead of letting the QUOTA demand die out, we are now proposing **PRIORITY** in all modes of travel and not QUOTA. Expectant mothers, senior citizens, cancer patients, heart patients, etc. get priority in travel. All ranks of merchant navy seafarers, who are declared **essential workers**, have to travel at very short notices nationally and internationally when they have to join and return from their ships. Seafarers should be **added** to the **PRIORITY list** to make it easier for them to travel.

4) To provide “VOTING RIGHTS” to onboard seafarers during state Assembly and national Lok Sabha elections.

Though **enshrined** in the Constitution of India, seafarers, when **serving onboard** Indian or foreign flagships within Indian or outside, have been denied their right to exercise their votes during state assembly and national Lok Sabha elections. If Non-Resident Indians can vote, the procedures should be enacted to ensure that seafarers who are away on high seas can also exercise their vote during the state and national elections. NUSI interaction with the Election Commission of India on this matter was not positive.



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We request the Government of India to agree to the long-pending welfare measures. We are hopeful of a positive response which will go a long way in acknowledging the contributions of the seafarers on the eve of our Independence Day. National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), lakhs of **all ranks of seafarers** serving on **Indian or foreign flagships** and their families stand strongly with the Government of India to ensure prosperity of our great nation.

JAI HIND

JAI NAVIK

Yours faithfully,

(Abdulgani Y. Serang)
General Secretary -cum-Treasurer
Executive Board Member – ITF
Vice Chair, ITF Seafarers Section – Asia Pacific Region
Vice Chair, ITF Asia Pacific Region

Cc:

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya,
Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping (I/C), Chemical and Fertilizers.

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar,
Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment (IC).

Shri P.K. Sinha, Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister.

Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, Secretary, Ministry of Shipping.

Shri Amitabh Kumar, IRS, Director General of Shipping.