

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sub: **NUSI and MUI team meet Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping**

1. You are aware that the Government of India has relaxed the Cabotage in the Indian coast.
2. You are also aware that there is a move to further relax the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) for Indian flag ships. This will mean that Indian flag ships will loose business which will directly negatively affect the jobs of Indian seafarers. It will also mean that foreign flag ships with foreign seafarers can work exclusively in the Indian coast.
3. Additionally, there was also a decision of the Government of India to privatize the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI). NUSI and MUI have been consistently taking up the above three matters with the Government of India for a longtime.

The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) and the Maritime Union of India (MUI) have strongly protested against the decisions of the Government. On the call of NUSI and MUI, hundreds of log entries were received from seafarers onboard the ships on Indian and foreign flags ships including DCI. There is lot of anger amongst the seafarers.

NUSI team led by General Secretary-cum-Treasurer, Shri Abdulgani Y. Serang and MUI team led by General Secretary, Shri Amar Singh Thakur met Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping today at Visakhapatnam, protesting against the decisions of the Government of India in the above three matters.

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping assured NUSI and MUI team that no steps will be taken which will take away the jobs of Indian seafarers and the Indian shipping will not suffer because of the Government policies. The Hon'ble Minister further stated that the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) will not be privatized and will be entirely supported by Government of India through the three ports of New Mangalore, Paradip and Visakhapatnam.

We are pleased to inform you that this is a positive assurance from Government of India regarding the above three matters strongly taken up by NUSI and MUI. A close watch will be kept by us regarding the developments in the points raised above so that the interest of the Indian seafarers in particular and the Indian shipping fraternity in general is not harmed.

We will keep you posted about the developments and advise you to still be ready for action and agitation if required.

Yours faithfully,

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



