

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sub: **Protest against relaxation of Cabotage in the Indian coast**

**Log entries by all seafarers on board**

India is seafarer supplying and also a shipowning country. Our Indian seafarers work on both Indian and foreign flag ships. On Indian flag ships, the shipowners have to employ only Indian seafarers. Thousands of our seafarers are gainfully employed on Indian articles of agreement on the National Maritime Board (India)- NMB(I) for the Petty Officers and Ratings and the INSA/MUI agreement for the Officers.

The Ministry of Shipping has now taken detrimental steps against Indian shipowners which will directly affect the job situation of all seafarers onboard Indian flag ships.

In the Indian coast only Indian flag ships were allowed to carry cargo. Now even foreign flag container ships with foreign crew can also carry cargo on the Indian coast. This relaxation of rules can also be extended to tanker ships and other kinds of ships. Further the right of Indian flag ships to carry any cargo in the Indian coast has also been removed.

This means that now foreign flag ships with foreign crew will also carry Indian cargo in the Indian coast and will compete with Indian shipowners. If this happens then all Officers, Petty Officers, Ratings serving on Indian articles of agreement on the NMB(I) and INSA/MUI agreement will lose their jobs. Many of our seafarers have gained good experience on Indian flag ships and are gainfully employed on foreign flag ships. And many of our seafarers have gone back to work on foreign flag ships. If Indian shipping companies choose to flag out to foreign flags then thousands of jobs will be lost. This will also mean that Indians will be at the mercy of foreign flag ships to carry all cargo in the future because Indian ship owners will go out of business and shut their operations or will register their ships in another foreign country.

The Maritime Union of India (MUI) and National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has strongly protested against the move of the Ministry of Shipping. We want all Officers, Petty Officers and Ratings to register their protest by immediately sending below mentioned log entries addressed to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. It is not only our moral responsibility but also our duty to save our Indian flag ships from being wiped out.

Duly filled individual ship wise Log entries should be sent to [nusi@vsnl.com](mailto:nusi@vsnl.com) and [mail@maritimeunionofindia.com](mailto:mail@maritimeunionofindia.com) at the earliest.

If you want the NUSI and MUI to help you retain your jobs, then be ready for agitation. Only a strong and collective action under the banner of NUSI and MUI will ensure justice to thousands of our seafarers serving on Indian flag ships.

Yours faithfully,

(Abdulgani Y. Serang)

General Secretary –cum – Treasurer

Vice-Chair, ITF Seafarers Section – Asia Pacific Region

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**Format of log entry**

Shri Narendra Modi,

Hon. Prime Minister of India.

Dear Sir,

Sub : **Protest against relaxation of Cabotage in the Indian coast**

We have been informed by National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) and Maritime Union of India (MUI) that the Government of India has relaxed cabotage restriction on the Indian coast. The requirement of giving preference to Indian flag ships to do business in the Indian coast has been removed.

Now even foreign flag ships with foreign seafarers can do business in the Indian coast. This is not only detrimental to Indian shipping fraternity in general, but also to seafarers in particular. Thousands of seafarers who are gainfully employed on Indian flag ships operating in the coast of India on Indian articles of agreement will lose their jobs. In addition it will also encourage the foreign companies to take undue advantage which is also detrimental to our Indian economy as a whole.

We seafarers will be rendered unemployed and are registering our strong protest against the relaxation of cabotage in the Indian coast. We request you to kindly have the cabotage relaxation revoked in the interest of Indian shipping fraternity.

Yours faithfully,

**Name**

**Rank**

**Signature**

Name of the ship with seal