

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sub: **NUSI demand for shore leave for Indians seafarers in Indian ports raised in Indian Parliament**

Our seafarers give lot of sacrifice serving on merchant and cruise ships. Being away from their family and working on high seas braving the rough weather and storms requires lot of courage and determination.

Many a times their ships come to ports in India and it is natural that they should get an opportunity to get shore leave to get in touch with their family members, shopping or spend some time in the city. Our seafarers are the Second line of Defence. To do this they should get “shore leave” which is unfortunately denied many times or shore passes are given after lot of delay and at times only after giving “bribe”.

National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has been consistently taking up the matter with the authorities to demand that Indian seafarers in Indian ports should not be denied shore leave. Denial of shore leave to Indians in Indian ports is disturbing, shocking and also humiliating. Infact, any Indian seafarer should just show proof of his/her ship documents at the port gates and should be allowed to go in and out without any delay or giving bribe. **It is our right and not any favour of anybody.**

NUSI has strongly taken up the matter with the maritime administration, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration authorities, customs and other governmental agencies. NUSI has also taken up the matter strongly at the statutory National Shipping Board (NSB).

Because of the strong and consistent approach by NUSI, the matter of shore leave in Indian ports will now be raised in the Indian Parliament in New Delhi. We want justice for all our seafarers and we will demand it with all NUSI power for the benefit of our seafarers. We can do this because of the strong support of all our seafarers.

We will keep you posted about the developments.

Long Live NUSI

Long Live Seamens Unity

Yours faithfully,

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