



# SAILORS' UNION OF INDIA (SUI)

Regd. Under The Indian Trade Union Act 1926, Vide No. A.L.C./Aami.17/10878

Affi. to Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, (Central Labor Organization.)



Add : Office. No.28, 2nd Floor, Hansraj Damodar Building, Building No.277, S.B.S. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001. Maharashtra.  
Ph.:+91 22 30018745 | Email : SUI\_shipping@yahoo.com

Ref.No.SUI/MoS/007/09/2017

To

Dr. Malini.V. Shankar. I.A.S.

Director General of Shipping

I think Techno Campus,

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Beta Building,

Kanjurmarg (East)

Mumbai-400042

Date: 13/09/2017

Respected sir,

Namaste!

**Sub: Inappropriate functioning of Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society (S.W.F.S) office in Mumbai**

Sir, we have already had sent several representation to the Director General of Shipping also the Chairman of the society regarding the irregularities in the functioning of the Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society for decades. The latest approach of the society was to axe Monthly Exgratia Monitory Assistance (MEMA) to the retired seafarers and their widows. We have a strong believe that the Director's timely interference in this matter toppled the expectations of some members of the management of the society.

Sir, **SAILORS' UNION OF INDIA (SUI)** is registered shipping trade union under the Trade Unions Act 1926 which is affiliated to the **BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH (BMS)** the largest and oldest labour union in India recognized by the Ministry of Labour Government of India.

Earlier this month, we have expressed our displeasure to the Director General of shipping to roll back from the decision to stop MEMA. We have also given a suggestion to the DGS that if the MEMA is stopped alternative monitory assistance should be initiated like monthly pension scheme for the retired seafarers and the widows. Aforesaid MEMA scheme was initiated in the year 1978 with Rs.75/ month has been increased now up to Rs.200 to the seamen and Rs.400/ month to the widows is remittance half yearly basis. Thereafter in the year 1993 SWFS decided to pay MEMA to the widows for two more years for a prospective period of from 1993 to July 1995.



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In case of widows who were then existing beneficiary in August 1993 were allowed to continue to resume MEMA for twelve years without break! Surprisingly, in the February 2013, S.W.F.S has been taken a decision to the widows of the seafarers who are exist as beneficiaries as on February 2013 for life time with enhanced quantum amount rose up to Rs.400/per month. On the contrary those widows received MEMA for twelve years till January 2013 based on the date of death of their husband beneficiary are not getting their benefit here after. The discriminatory attitude of the SWFS to retired seafarers and to a section of widows is unacceptable and such decisions must be reviewed and revised accordingly to get the benefit to all. The partiality among distributing benefit should not be allowed. Why do this society so favourable to "certain" union only when welfare fund is remitted on the basis of central government notification? One of the union also they are the members in S.W.F.S is making MEMA to the widows to whom S.W.F.S. discontinued after 12 years period! But sir, all widows of the seamen are not the members of that certain union and therefore deprived for the benefit from such welfare. How many Crores of rupees lying idle with the S.W.F.S after receiving welfare fund based on the Government Notification when the widows are deprived MEMA for their life time?

S.W.F.S. has no record to produce for not paying MEMA to the beneficiaries who had not submitted life certificate in time, but, still this office is not allowing arrears of MEMA for the period for which life certificate is not submitted. This society totally ignores the old age widows and isolated them from the benefits!! S.W.F.S is a welfare office for the retired seafarers and their widows cannot impose strict rules upon uneducated and old beneficiaries, and such arrears may be released. Further widows are not paid MEMA for their life time as seamen beneficiaries' as explained above. Then how our Prime Ministers' vision for equal right to men & women come true!! S.W.F.S discriminative decisions are disrespect the women especially the widows of the seamen.

Now, I would like to highlight the unwanted and unscrupulous recruitment on contractual basis new appointments on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 by the chief of the S.W.F.S biased on self motivation the incumbent was terminated since earlier and the new appointment is not justifiable because they are not capable and even internal work study of volume of works with each staff under the winding up scenario of various welfare schemes had not carried out to identify the need of fresh recruitment. Whether such appointment on contractual basis, especially 1<sup>st</sup> September this year was conveyed to the higher authority by the chief of the S.W.F.S? The new appointment of extra staff in the S.W.F.S public exchequer with a huge amount every month and such appointment can be avoided with a prior gesture. Why such decision has been taken by the chief to waste on administrative expenses? We are requesting you to call for these details to put an end of the abrupt recruitment by the concerned officer of the S.W.F.S.



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Sir, we kindly request you to discuss these issues with the shipping Minister and find out a solution for the welfare of the seamen and their widows and also for reducing unwanted administrative appointment /expenses.

Thanking you in anticipation.

JAI HIND!

Yours faithfully,

RP VEETIL.

All India General Secretary

(SUI)

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Cc to:

- ✓ 1. Shri. Nitin Ghadkari Ji. Union Minister for Shipping,
- ✓ 2. Shri. Narendra Modi Ji, Prime Minister of India
- ✓ 3. Shri. Brijesh Upadhyay Ji, All India General Secretary, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh ( BMS) New Delhi.