

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE TABLED BY SHRI CHANDRAKANT KAVLEKAR, LEADER OF OPPOSITION, DAYANAND SOPTE, NILKANTH KALARNKAR, ANTONIO FERNANDES, FRANCISCO SILVEIRA, PRATAPSINGH RANE, RAVI NAIK, WILFRED D'SA, ALEXIO LOURENCO, DIGAMBAR KAMAT, LUIZINHO FALEIRO, CLAFASIO DIAS, FILIPE N. RODRIGUES, ISIDORE FERNANDES AND SMT. JENNIFER MONSERRATE, MLAs.

“Fear and anxiety due to great injustice caused to the retired seafarers of Goa / widows by discontinuing ex-gratia payment by the Seafarers and Welfare Fund Society, Mumbai and that one time lump sum of Rs. 12,500/- will be paid. Action the Government of Goa will take to urgently convene a joint meeting with the DGS, Mumbai, NUSI, Welfare Fund Society and Goan Seamen Association not to discontinue the same but to increase the ex-gratia payment”

REPLY TO THE CALLING ATTENTION

It has been brought to the notice of the Government by the Goan Seamen Association of India (GSAI) that there is a Seafarers Welfare Fund Society (SWFS) which is a Society established in 1964 with Director General of Shipping, Govt. of India as its Chairman and representatives of Ship Owners Associations and Seafarers Unions as its members. That the said Society operates schemes for the welfare of Seafarers, the “Monthly Ex-Gratia Monetary Assistance (MEMA) Scheme” being one of them started in the year 1978. The said Society pays Rs. 200/- (Rupees Two Hundred only) per month to the seamen and Rs. 400/- (Rupees Four Hundred only) per month to the widows of seamen as a monthly Ex-Gratia Monetary Assistance till their lifetime.

2. The Committee of Management of SWFS has taken a decision to discontinue the MEMA Scheme w.e.f. 01/07/2018 and to pay a onetime lump sum amount of Rs. 12,500/- to each beneficiary towards closure of the scheme. The beneficiaries have been requested by the Chief Administrative cum Accounts Officer of SWFS to fill up and sign a form giving details along with copy of the bank passbook page showing account details on or before 30/09/2018 and that the said amount will be released after 01/10/2018 subject to compliance of eligibility.

3. The said decision of SWFS has caused dejection and the beneficiaries numbering around 3000 plus from Goa are agitated and are seeking the intervention of the Government of Goa for holding a joint meeting with the Director General of Shipping, Govt. of India and the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society along with Seafarers Associations like NUSI and Goan Seamen Association of India to resolve the matter in an amicable and fair manner to all.
4. Preliminary inquiries done by the NRI Cell has revealed that Govt. of India has stipulated guidelines for the contribution of welfare fund by the Recruitment and Placement Services providers for seamen engaged on board foreign flag and Indian flag vessels. The welfare fund contribution is paid on a quarterly basis to the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society.
5. Although the Government of Goa has its own pension scheme for paying pension @ Rs. 2,500/- per month to the retired Goan[†] Seafarers and their widows, as per eligibility criteria, in view of the anxiety amongst Seafarer, Government of Goa shall endure to have a joint meeting with concerned.