

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1584
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2022

**SCHEMES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF SEAFARERS IN
WEST BENGAL**

1584. SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes for social security and protection of seafarers in West Bengal and across the country by Government; and
(b) whether it is a fact that no funds have been allocated from the Consolidated Fund of India for social security and protection of seafarers, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a)& (b) The Central Government through its organizations such as Seamen Provident Fund Organization (SPFO) and Seafarers Welfare Fund Society (SWFS) has implemented various schemes for social security and protection of seafarers across the country. These two organizations work for the welfare of seafarers and their families.

The various schemes being implemented by these organizations include Provident Fund Scheme, Survival Benefit Scheme, Invalidity Benefit Scheme, Maternity Benefit Scheme for female seafarer, The Old age benefit Welfare Scheme, Family Benefit Welfare Scheme, SWFS- Novel Corona-virus (Covid-19) Assistance Scheme, & Ex- Gratia Assistance on Death.

In addition, various Seafarer's hostel/club /Welfare centers have been established and functioning at the various port cities across the country like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin, Port Blair, Haldia, Kandla, Kakinada, Gangavaram and Paradip which function under the supervision of the Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs)/Ports.

For enhancement of skill and competence of seafarers, there are various schemes that have been implemented through the Maritime Training Trust under the Directorate General of Shipping including the skill enhancement program of GP (General Purpose) Rating and cadets, E-Learning for Certificate of Competency courses, E-Learning for Modular Courses, Conduct of online Course on English Communication & Soft Skill for faculty and the scheme for providing enhanced financial support for women seafaring candidates.

These welfare schemes are implemented through SPFO and SWFS. The funds for SPFO are contributed by the seafarer and the employer and in case of SWFS, the funds are primarily contributed by the Shipowners or the Recruitment and Placement Service Provider whosoever recruits the seafarer.
