

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2707
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026

‘SEAFARER-FIRST’ INITIATIVE AND REAL-TIME TRACKING

2707 SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

- (a) the primary objective of the 'Seafarer-First' initiative recently launched by Government and the specific maritime regions covered therein;
- (b) whether Government has developed any real-time tracking system to keep moment-to-moment information about Indian sailors passing through crisis-hit areas; and
- (c) whether this tracking system would apply equally to Indian nationals deployed on foreign-flagged vessels?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government accords the highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian seafarers. In view of the escalation of the security situation in Iran, the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf and adjacent waters, the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), a subordinate office under this Ministry has instituted a comprehensive and graded 'Seafarer-First' framework. As part of this, a real-time reporting, tracking and monitoring mechanism for vessels and Indian seafarers engaged in both Indian flagged and foreign flagged vessels operating in the said region is in place and operational. The details of steps/ measures taken by the Government are placed at **Annexure**.

Advisories to Ensure the Safety and Security of Indian Seafarers:

Numerous advisories have been issued by Directorate General of Maritime Administration which operate alongside the standing maritime security architecture established under DGS Circular No. 08 of 2024 dated 10.04.2024 and are supported by a 24-hour Control Room, continuous real-time monitoring through the DG Communication Centre under DGMA, and the issue of a 'Situation Report' every 24 hours. The details of advisories are:

- i. DGS Circular No. 01 of 2026 dated 14.01.2026 – issued pursuant to the advisory of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Embassy of India, Tehran, advising all Recruitment and Placement Services Licence (RPSL) companies and shipping companies not to deploy Indian seafarers to Iran until further orders, and advising vessels calling at Iranian ports or transiting the Strait of Hormuz to exercise utmost caution.
- ii. DGS Circular No. 08 of 2026 dated 28.02.2026 – mandating comprehensive ship-shore security drills covering loitering munitions, unmanned surface vessels and similar threats, testing of the Ship Security Alert System prior to transit, voyage-specific risk assessment by owners, operators and charterers, full implementation of Ship Security Plans, and immediate reporting of any suspicious activity, interception, electronic interference or GNSS disruption to the DG Communication Centre.
- iii. DGS Circular No. 09 of 2026 dated 28.02.2026 – Urgent Advisory to Indian Seafarers and Shipping Stakeholders in view of Escalating Situation in Iran, requiring Indian seafarers in Iran to remain vigilant, register with the Embassy of India, coordinate for safe departure where feasible, and directing stakeholders to immediately provide details of Indian seafarers in affected areas.
- iv. DGS Circular No. 21 of 2026 dated 07.04.2026 - issued a safety advisory for Indian seafarers ashore in Iran and onboard vessels operating in or around Iranian waters, directing them to remain vigilant, restrict unnecessary movement, follow advisories issued by the Embassy of India in Tehran, maintain contact with company representatives, and utilize DGS emergency support channels for assistance as required.
- v. DGS Circular No. 31 of 2026 dated 13.06.2026 – Precautionary Measures for Indian Seafarers in view of the Heightened Security Situation in the Gulf Region, reiterating heightened security vigilance, directing shipping companies and RPSL companies to restrict deployment of Indian seafarers to conflict areas until further orders (except emergency crew changes with consent), monitoring and reporting requirements, and dissemination of verified security information.
- vi. DGS Circular No. 33 of 2026 dated 26.06.2026 – issued upon improvement in the situation, superseding the earlier restriction and permitting normal operations subject to caution and applicable coastal-State security protocols, and providing for a coordinated evacuation mechanism involving the International Maritime Organization

(IMO), the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), the MICA Centre and coastal States.

Details of real-time reporting, tracking and monitoring mechanism for vessels and seafarers operating in the said region:

- i. The eNavik Portal, operationalised on 01.07.2026, provides an integrated digital platform with dedicated 24x7 Marine Casualty Reporting, Crisis Management and Seafarer Grievance Redressal modules, enabling digital reporting of marine casualties, security incidents & distress situations, automated routing of incident reports to the concerned authorities, along with real-time tracking of response measures and case progression.
- ii. An online Ship Reporting Form, has been instituted under DGS Circular No. 08 of 2024, through this all vessels transiting the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and adjacent waters submit their details, thereby maintaining a comprehensive and up-to-date vessel database which facilitates tracking and coordination and enables a swift response.
- iii. A requirement, under DGS Circular No. 08 of 2026, for the Company Security Officer to furnish to the DG Communication Centre the full particulars of the vessel together with the crew list.
- iv. Continuous real-time monitoring is undertaken through the DG Communication Centre, which is manned round the clock, in close coordination with the Indian Navy, the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and other competent authorities.
- v. A Situation Report is compiled and issued every 24 hours, which records, inter alia, the vessel-wise position and the number of Indian seafarers onboard each vessel in the region.
