

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2780  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019

RECRUITMENT OF SEAFARERS

2780. SHRI RATANSINH MAGANSINH RATHOD:  
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:  
SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
SHRI HEMANT SRIRAM PATIL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

पोत परिवहन मंत्री

- (a) whether the practice of improper registries has resulted in difficulties in the recruitment of seafarers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial steps taken/being taken in this regard and to eradicate unscrupulous recruiters for seafarers;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that 3,762 seafarers have allegedly secured qualification certificates without attending classes;
- (d) if so, whether the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has initiated action against these alleged 3,762 seafarers and the institutes that have awarded the certificates and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to maintain its reputation as a supplier of quality seafarers to the global shipping industry?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR SHIPPING  
(SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. As per Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and Merchant Shipping (Recruitment & Placement Service) Rules, 2016, the Recruitment and Placement services are registered and licensed to recruit and place Indian seafarers on board ships. However, a number of cases have been received in the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) about the difficulties being faced by Indian seafarers who are recruited and placed on board Foreign Flag ships by unknown/unlicensed recruitment agents.

To prevent such cases, an e-migrate system was launched on 11.08.2017, wherein only registered Recruitment and Placement Services (RPS) have been authorized to submit seafarers data. This data is accessible to the immigration authorities to verify whether the seafarers travelling abroad are recruited through authorized Recruitment and Placement Service (RPS) agents. Only on such verification, seafarers are allowed by immigration authorities to pass through immigration channel. In addition to the above, the following remedial steps have taken in this regards:

- An advisory was issued by DGS in the newspaper, highlighting the importance of recruitment only through DGS licensed/registered RPS entities Or through Indian Shipowners. Updated list of RPS entities is available on the DGS website.
- Promulgation of new simplified continuous discharge certificate (CDC) rules in 2017 and making the entire process and issuance of CDCs paperless & online.
- Introducing e-Submission of engagement and discharge details by Indian ship-owners and registered RPS in the DGS e-Governance System.
- Revised Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement) Rules 2016 have been promulgated, wherein the RPS Rules have been aligned with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006 Regulations.
- The DGS has also sent one to one e-mails to all Indian seafarers registered in its e-Governance System advising them not to accept maritime recruitment and placement through non-DGS registered entities.
- The DGS approved Maritime Training Institutes have been requested to display the said e-mails of the DGS on their notice board/website for the benefit of their students.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir, it came to the notice that some of the Maritime Training Institutes (MTI) have issued course certificate(s) to candidates without their actual attendance and without imparting the required training. In certain cases, signatures of the Course In-charge and Principal / Head of the Institute have been scanned on the certificates and not physically signed.

DGS has issued Show Cause Notice (SCN) to four MTI's which were involved in issuance of the fake certificates. Out of the four maritime training institutes, one MTI has requested for voluntary closure of the Institute after surprise Inspection. Remaining three MTIs to which SCN was issued were denied access to conduct any DGS approved maritime modular courses.

Further, the courses in which such irregularities were noticed were identified and the candidates enrolled in such courses have been prevented to travel using e-migrate system, pending verification of authenticity of certificates.

Show Cause Notices (SCNs) were issued to all candidates by the Directorate on 28.09.2019. The SCNs were sent to their given addresses by speed post, by email and published on seafarer profile. Each of these candidates/Seafarers was asked to reply to the SCN within fifteen days (with data) of the issuance and to submit objective evidence to show if he had attended the said course in the Institute.

DGS has received around 1300 replies, out of which final order has been passed for 263 candidates who gave clear reply of having obtained certificate without attending classes fully.

(e) The growth in the number of Indian seafarers has been possible due to a series of measures taken by the Government to improve the standards of maritime training, increase on-board training opportunities, improve the examination and certification system and facilitate ease of doing business.

The training curriculum for the officers and the ratings was revised in 2016 not only to meet the global standards but also to meet the expectations of the foreign employers. In order to regulate the training institutes working in the private sector, a system of 'Comprehensive Inspection Programme' (CIP) has been designed to assess the quality of the institute on