UNOFFICIAL BAN IMPOSED ON INDIAN SEAFARERS

1141. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed the unofficial ban imposed by China on Indian seafarers and prohibited entry/berth of ships with Indian seafarers;

(b) whether the Government has received any letter from All India Seafarer & General Workers Union and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above decision by China, nearly 20,000 Indian seafarers are going to lose their job; and

(d) if so, details thereof and steps taken by the Ministry through diplomatic and political channels to address this issue?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (d) Government had taken note of a few media reports which had appeared earlier in the year on the subject. Government had therefore taken up the matter with the Chinese side. Government emphasized to the Chinese side that any restriction selectively targeting sailors from India is unacceptable. The Chinese side had conveyed that it had not imposed any ban and that such reports were not accurate.

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